JPRS-UAG-85-030 25 November 1985

USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

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USSR REPORT AGRICULTURE

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LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

PRAVDA REVIEWS FEED PROCUREMENT SITUATION

PM100703 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Oct 85 First Edition p 1

[Ye. Yevgeniy "Agricultural Review": "Feed for the Winter"]

[Excerpts] According to USSR Central Statistical Administration figures, by the beginning of October grain and pulse crops (excluding corn) had been cut on 106-8 million hectares, which is 96 percent of the sown area, on the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Grain has been threshed on 105.4 million hectares. Lifting of potatoes and sugar beet, flax pulling, and cotton and rice harvesting are in progress.

Since the start of the harvesting, 122.6 million metric tons of feed units have been laid in on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This is somewhat more than by the same time last season. The target for laying in haylage has been exceeded. The stock of hay amounts to 74.2 million metric tons, which is 95 percent of the plan. Some 215 million metric tons of silage has been laid in.

However, there are farms which have still not fully provided their livestock units with feed. In particular, many kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Moldavia, Georgia, and also Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Guryev, Kzyl-Grda, and a number of other oblasts have accumulated less coarse and succulent feed than required. Urgent measures are needed to rectify the situation. There are opportunities for this. As well as transferring feed from oblasts which have sufficient, fuller use must be made of each farm's reserves. It is a matter of accelerating the pace of harvesting root crops, corn, secondary sowings, and aftergrasses and using waste from crop- and vegetable-growing.

Farmers in Tataria and Voronezh and Ryazan Oblasts, for instance, are treating stubble with care. Here, the plans for stacking straw, have already been exceeded. The practice of those collectives where the method of gathering the chopped stubble on combine trailers is being introduced deserves support.

Stubble plays a considerable role in shaping livestock rations. But by no means all farms display concern about its procurement. Thus, kolkhozes and sovkhozes in East Siberia have still only stacked one-third of the required amount of straw.

In Vinnitsa, Ternopol, Cherkassy, and other oblasts skillful use is being made of waste from sugar beet plantations. Assiduous farmers are also including sunflower heads and corn stalks.

Every additional quintal of coarse and succulent feed obtained in the fields and meadows now means extra milk and meat. Mixed silage plays particularly perceptible role in improving rations and saving concentrates. Taking account of its growing importance in the feed balance, many farms are striving to increase production of such feed. Belgorod Oblast farmers traditionally pay a lot of attention to laying in mixed silage. They have many followers on farms in Bashkiria and in Lipetsk, Volgograd, and Ulyanovsk Oblasts, for example. The economic effectiveness of the production of highly nutritive silage is obvious. Nonetheless, by no means everybody is following the example of leading collectives.

The feed balance can now be considerably improved on the basis of feed root crops. In the RSFSR alone there are 20 million metric tons of them to be procured. That is a considerable amount of work! However, the harvesting is proceeding slowly in a considerable section of the regions. Only 19 percent of this feed has been procured on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the Non-Chernozem Zone, 32 percent in the Urals, and 31 percent in East Siberia.

It is just as important to think out the rations and show concern for improving their nutritional value. The wide network of feed shops will help in this. Many farm leaders and specialists took care to put them in order back in the summer. Today 9 out of 10 feed shops are ready for work. That is throughout the country as a whole. But in Kazakhstan one-fifth of these shops are in need of repair. A large number of them are still not ready in Irkutsk, Kirov, and Vladimir oblasts. The rayon agroindustrial association councils must step up their monitoring of the repair of feed preparation equipment and seek to ensure that it operates without interruptions.

A party economic aktiv conference held recently in Tselinograd noted the need to make wider use in stockraising of intensive methods of work. Each farm must draft measures to enable stockraisers to secure high milk yields and livestock weight gains and to achieve the planned targets in any weather conditions. Their partners in the agroindustrial complex are called on to help them in this. However, not all their services as yet fulfill their obligations pre isely. For instance, in the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, and Tajikistan construction workers are behind with commissioning stockraising premises, silage and haylage facilities, facilities for storing grain feed, and other installations envisaged by the 1985 plan. The meat and milk production process is sensitive to any shortcomings in service and supply.

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LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

EAST SIBERIA FEED PROCUREMENT LAG INDICATED

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 31 Aug 85 p 1

Article by M. Glinka, zootechnician: "Feed Supplies Must be Augmented."

Text/ The Nazarovskiy Sovkhoz in Krasnoyarsk Kray has a generous supply of feed every year. And this year was no exception; by July, the sovkhoz had fulfilled its hay procurement plan. Certainly, this was the result of a high degree of discipline, a business-like attitude and expertise on the part of the workers attached to this well organized farm. It also derives from the ability of its leaders and specialists to handle the logistical and human resources in a sensible manner. Nevertheless, I see other sources for the constant successes being achieved out on the meadows and forage fields.

I have attentively observed eastern Siberia for a long period of time -- it is a region which I am confident has a great livestock husbandry future. And it is difficult to recall those years when the haying period was marked by good weather. "It is not so much when one asks, but rather when one mows" this proverb, concerning rain during feed procurement operations, in all probability was uttered for the first time in this area. Add to this the frequent shortage of moisture during the growing season and the brief duration of the warm period (the last frost occurs towards the end of July and the first of the new season -- in August) and the insidious nature of the Baykal weather becomes quite clear. But whereas in other areas the difficulties created by such weather are used to justify disruptions, at the Nazarovskiy Sovkhoz weather is viewed as a constantly active factor which can and must be taken into account in advance. And accordingly the authorities here have developed their own "forage policy" in this regard.

Eastern Siberia has always been praised for its skilled feed procurement specialists. Here, in the Buryat ASSR, the meadow culture experts launched a movement for obtaining 100 and more quintals of hay per hectare. The unique technology created by them for irrigating and fertilizing meadows has still not become obsolete. Here, in Chita Oblast, thought was given to the need for creating winter pastures on autumn sowings of oats and supplying the livestock with fresh greens at the height of the Siberian winter. Unfortunately, in recent years much of the experience accumulated by leading workers has been lost. As a result, even the scanty plans for procuring feed are from year to year not being fulfilled. Again this year, the nighttime frosts were very

damaging and thus the completion of the tasks concerned with procuring coarse and succulent feed (in quintals of feed units) is still a long way off:

	In Percentages Of Plan	Per Standard Head of Cattle
Krasnoyarsk Kray	47	7.9
Irkutsk Oblast	36	6.5
Chita Oblast	47	6.3
Buryat ASSR	48	5.3
Tuva ASSR	36	3.3

As you can see, the picture is by no means a favorable one. The Krasnoyarsk Kray newspaper, in summarizing the results of the recently completed "2-month feed procurement campaign," referred to the haying period as having been sluggish. This was an accurate description! Many farms failed to fulfill the task of the 2-month campaign. The best and the worst periods_passed and in the kray (the chairman of the agroprom /agricultural industry/ is V.M. Buynovskiy) one tenth of the grasses was not mowed during the first cutting and the hay procurement plan was fulfilled by only 87 percent and the haylage plan -- by 91 percent. Here they have only just commenced laying in silage. Of the 4 million tons of silage planned, they had hoped to lay in 1,250,000 tons by 20 August and succeeded in laying in only one fourth of this amount. The leading experience of this same Nazarovskiy Sovkhoz in the organization of a strong feed base is being introduced into operations on a completely inadequate scale.

The farms in Irkutsk Oblast (the chairman of the agroprom is F.V. Kukarin) have brought in their first cutting of 78 percent of the grasses intended for hay and haylage and they have fulfilled their plans for accumulating this feed by 65 and 114 percent respectively. The feed crop yields turned out to be good and yet the organization of the harvest work leaves a great deal to be desired on many of the farms. It is sufficient to state that by the beginning of August not one forced ventilation unit had been placed in operation in 15 of 26 rayons. Yes and by the middle of August 16 such units of a total number of 103 were no longer in operating condition. By this same period, only 312 of 955 pick-up balers were in working condition.

The agricultural workers in the Trans-Baykal region are procuring their feed under unusually complicated conditions. Heavy showers which occurred at the height of the haying season brought about summer flood conditions, the erosion of roads and the flooding of a portion of the feed lands. But even in this situation the leading farms did not cease their operations out on the meadows and plantations. Once again an axiom was confirmed: a fine master searches for the means for overcoming difficulties while a poor one views such difficulties as a means for justifying his own lack of administrative ability. The following fact is well known throughout Chita Oblast: all of the farms in Akshinskiy, Gazimuro-Zavodskiy, Karymskiy, Uletovskiy and Shelopuginskiy rayons laid away as much hay during a week in July as was laid away by the brigade of P.I. Boroyev of the Krasnyy Velikan Sovkhoz in just one day. The haying work was organized in a fine manner at the Mikhaylovskiy, Gaurskiy and Motogorskiy sovkhozes and on a number of other farms. But on the whole the oblast (the chairman of the agroprom is A.I. Polivin) was unable to reorganize on a timely

basis, nor was it able during the rainy period to switch its forces over from procuring hay to carrying out haylage and ensilage operations. As a result, many farms may remain without haylage, silage and hay. And this is with a good grass stand at hand.

During a public inspection carried out in July on the course of feed procurement operations, SELSKAYA ZHIZN criticized those farms in the Buryat ASSR (the chairman of the agroprom is A.S. Bereshchinov) which were late in commencing their work out on the meadows. Recently the Editorial Board received a reply to this article, signed by the secretary of the oblast CPSU committee K. Albasheyev. After acknowledging the criticism to be correct, he reported on the measures taken which now make it possible to carry out the procurement of hay from natural haying lands by 20 August and silage -- by 1 September. By 26 August, 59 percent of the planned quantity of hay had been laid away here. Roughly 289,000 tons of prepared silage were obtained -- 30 percent of the planned amount (this was the best indicator for the region) and the plan for laying in haylage was over-fulfilled.

Recently, some happy news was received at the Tuva Kok-Tey Sovkhoz -- the farm was declared the winner of the all-union socialist competition for the successful carrying out of the last livestock wintering program and it was awarded the diploma of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee. There is every reason to believe that the farm's livestock breeders will carry out the forthcoming wintering program in an exemplary manner -- the plan for accumulating hay has already been fulfilled here and considerably more silage and haylage have been laid away that the amounts called for in the plan. Unfortunately, this is only one of a few such examples. On the whole, the feed procurement rates are increasing extremely slowly in the autonomous republic (the chairman of the agroprom is M.Ye. Abramov). As a result, only slightly more than one half of the sown and natural grasses were cut down during the first cutting and the plan for procuring hay was fulfilled by only 54 and that for haylage -- by 58 percent.

The livestock breeders in eastern Siberia are striving to ensure that the region's residents are fully supplied with internally produced milk and meat. If this task is to be carried out, the attitude towards feed procurement work must be changed radically.

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LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

BELORUSSIAN FEED PROCUREMENT PROGRESS REVIEWED

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 85 p 3

Operational review_of the Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture: "Urgent Tasks of Feed Production"/

Excerpts/ A number of oblast and rayon agroindustrial associations have achieved appreciable results this year in increasing their procurements of feed. It is sufficient to state that all of the oblasts over-fulfilled their plans for laying in haylage. Many rayons achieved their planned indicators for procuring hay, grass meal and other types of grassy feeds.

At the same time, the status of affairs with regard to the accumulation of forage is not in keeping with the established tasks and cannot be considered normal. In accordance with data supplied by the BSSR TsSU /Central Statistical Administration/ for 2 September, all types of feed had been procured in Brest Oblast to the extent of 65 percent of the established task, in Vitebsk Oblast -- 53, in Gomel Oblast -- 63, in Grodno Oblast -- 64, in Minsk Oblast -- 60 percent and in Mogilev Oblast -- 52 percent. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that some farms are experiencing difficulties this year in connection with their procurements of grain forage, potatoes and food roots.

In this regard, priority attention should be given to those problems concerned with the procurement of grassy feeds such that the plans for procuring them will be fulfilled unconditionally and, in addition, any shortfall in other types of forage will be compensated. The hay procurement operations are arousing special concern. In Grodno Oblast, only 1.2 tons of hay were procured per cow in the public herd, Brest Oblast -- 1.3, Minsk Oblast -- 1.4, Vitebsk Oblast -- 1.5, Mogilev -- 1.5 and only in Gomel Oblast -- 1.7 tons, that is, close to the norm of 2 tons.

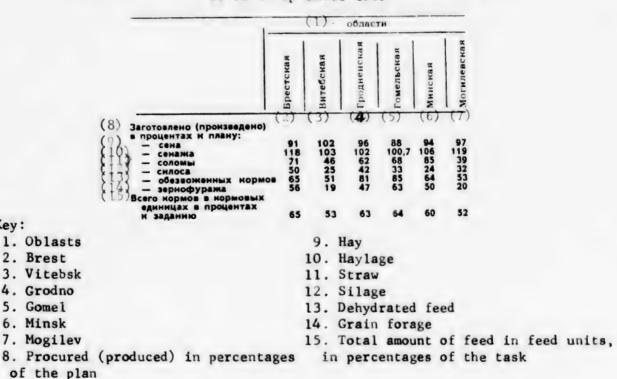
Thus the rayon agroindustrial associations must study in detail the status of affairs with regard to feed procurements at each kolkhoz and sovkhoz and revive the work of mechanized detachments and teams with regard to hay procurements. The work must be carried out in a manner such that the planned task for procuring this type of forage is fulfilled.

With the exception of Gomel Oblast, a sharp reduction has taken place in all oblasts in the procurement volumes for haylage silage bulk and also dehydrated feed. A check has revealed that this situation was caused not so much by a lack of raw materials but rather by weak labor organization, poor work by the

detachments and teams, weak assistance by the supporters and a lowered degree of exactingness on the part of the rayon agricultural administrations. And indeed any delay in harvesting the grasses on arable land and meadows is fraught with large and irreplaceable nutrient losses.

Feed Procurements at Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes in the BSSR as of 2 September 1985

Key:



At the present time, all organizational and economic work must be concentrated on ensuring that each kolkhoz and sovkhoz fulfills its established feed procurement plans. The conditions and potential for accomplishing this are available on all of the farms. The chief concern is organizing the work in a manner such that the mowing and larvesting of the sown and natural grasses are carried out at high rates in all areas on a daily basis, that the grass stands of uncut areas of sown and natural grasses are cut during the first 10 days in September and that the feed supplies for public livestock husbandry and for the privately owned livestock of citizens are increased to the maximum possible degree.

In addition to this work, strict accounting and complete crediting must be organized in all areas for all feed procured. For the carrying out of this work, it will be necessary to organize special committees at each kolkhoz and sovkhoz for accounting for and crediting the forage.

Taking into account the local conditions and potential, it will be necessary to devise and implement measures aimed at harvesting the straw, chaff, haulm of grass seed plants and the tops of potatoes, food roots and sugar beets. Every attempt must be made to eliminate even minimal losses during the harvesting of grasses, silage crops and corn, potatoes and root crops.

The oblast and rayon Selkhozkhimiya organizations have at their disposal all that is needed for carrying out the ammoniation of straw within a brief interval of time and without allowing this work to drag out until the onset of a sharp cold snap, at which time the effect of such treatment decreases sharply. Belselkhozkhimiya must exercise systematic control over this work and intervene in an efficient manner while it is being carried out.

Not only have preparations been made in all areas for harvesting the silage crops, but if fact the work is being carried out. However the work rates are not high in all areas and it is for this reason that the supplies of silage bulk are being increased in a very weak manner. Moreover, a considerable portion of the silage, practically one out of every four tons, was not treated with chemical preservatives on farms in Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel and Grodno oblasts.

A large volume of work must be carried out this year in connection with the high quality harvesting of corn for silage.

The preparation of feed for feeding to animals plays an important role in the work concerned with raising the effectiveness of use of feed. This applies in particular to internally produced grain forage and potatoes. Unfortunately, this work cannot be considered as satisfactory. The rich experience accumulated in a number of areas in the processing of grain forage in OKTs departments on an inter-farm basis, the laying in of mixed silage and the ensiling of steamed potatoes must be given greater dissemination this year.

This year's task consists of ensuring that all of the farms have more feed than they did last year. This will make it possible to increase the production of livestock husbandry products during the forthcoming wintering period and also to establish a good foundation for the future.

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LIVESTOCK

KARAGANDA LIVESTOCK SECTOR MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Sep 85 p 2

/Article by Yu. Razgulyayev: "A Sprint Without Preparation"/

/Text/ At the beginning of the 11th Five-Year Plan, a number of decrees were adopted in Karaganda Oblast aimed at developing agricultural production and particularly livestock husbandry and ensuring that food goods would be made available for this large mining region. Some time has passed and it is now possible to summarize some of the results and to examine the degree to which the words have been reinforced by action here

For the oblast's sovkhozes, the years of the 11th Five-Year Plan, instead of producing forward progress, turned out to be a deviation from results already achieved. In terms of milk production, for example, the debt turns out to be almost 90,000 tons, that is, the livestock breeders are lagging behind the planned tasks by almost 6 months. The productivity of the milking herd has decreased considerably. In terms of this indicator, some rayons have regressed to the 8th or 9th five-year plan and the "dairy" rayons proper -- Osakarovskiy, Telmanskiy, Ulyanovskiy -- fell back even more, by 15-20 years.

True, the volume of products being delivered at the present time has increased somewhat. But it is still less than the control figures for the five-year plan. And it is quite incompatible with the tasks which were defined in the joint decree of the oblast party committee and the oblast executive committee with regard to increasing the production of livestock products.

Why is it that a slump has taken place instead of the planned increase? And why did the serious plan advance no farther than the paper it was written on?

Let us return to the beginning of the five-year plan. Karaganda Oblast started it with the following results: practically all of the suburban rayons were obtaining 2,000 kilograms of milk from each cow. And in Michurinskiy Rayon -- up to 2,500 kilograms. Beef cattle husbandry was developing in a stable manner. However, success was not achieved in supplying the mining cities with food goods. A considerable portion of the meat and dairy products consumed was imported from outside the oblast.

Naturally, the communists were disturbed over this situation. And at election conferences and plenums and meetings, they discussed the shortcomings in the

development of the rural economy and the large unused reserves. It was at this time that a document appeared which called for a sharp and even spasmodic jump in the development of livestock husbandry throughout the oblast. Judge for yourself: it calls for the production and procurement of milk to be increased immediately by 65 percent compared to the average annual level for the 10th Five-Year Plan.

It bears mentioning that these figures raised some doubts among many specialists. "Milk production cannot be raised by decrees alone" they argued, "Rather the base must be developed -- feed, facilities, reproduction." And it turned out that these recommendations were followed. Shortly thereafter, a whole series of documents was adopted: on the construction of livestock husbandry facilities, on expanding the irrigated lands and on improving the reproduction of the herd. It was believed that all factors had been taken into consideration. However, production stubbornly refused to rise. The levers which were expected to produce results failed to function.

In conformity with the adopted decrees, the principal portion of the increase in milk production must be obtained through growth in the number of cows. According to the specialists, each animal pulls behind it a train -- calves, heifers and replacement cows. And all must be provided with "housing." It has been estimated that during the last 3 years of the five-year plan, 100,000 cattle billets were required for this purpose. During the last five-year plan, facilities for 30,000 animals were built with a great amount of difficulty throughout the oblast.

What did the plans call for? In addition to the chief contractual organization, the Karagandaselstroy-10 Trust, the plans called for work to be carried out at sovkhozes by a subunit of Glavtsentrostroy, mine-builders and the Irtyshkanalstroy Administration. Although such "patronage work" did not fall within the framework of the plans for many organizations, nevertheless city-dwellers were included in the construction of cow barns. And they are performing very well. Nevertheless, the number of cow barns built was somewhat less than the number planned.

There was no need for waiting for higher construction rates. The organizations simply lacked the capabilities for such rates. This applied in particular to the chief contractor. For all practical purposes, the Karagandaselstroy-10 Trust has not succeeded in developing its own base over the past 10 years. And this "minor" _consideration was overlooked in the obkom _oblast committee/ and oblispolkom _oblast executive committee/ when preparing the program for improving the branch.

Here they did not take into account the return from irrigated lands. The area of such land is increasing -- this is true. Strong figures are being cited in the reports more and more frequently: over the past 8 years, the area of regular irrigation in the oblast has increased threefold and for forage crops -- even more. However, providing the fields with water constitutes only one half of the problem. Equally important is the need for organizing irrigation work in a skilful manner and teaching the workers how to perform their tasks efficiently. And this was not done. Thus the return from the hectares placed in operation was not very great. Just as in the past, the majority of the rayons are experiencing an acute shortage of feed.

The unreliability of the first two levers has weakened the third one considerably -- reproduction. A shortage of facilities leads to over-crowding and many farms accommodate their animals at any bases, so long as there is a roof. It is by no means an accident that the calf yield is low at sovkhozes. Since it has not been possible to augment the herd, it has been marked by low productivity over several years and at times by cows which do not produce milk.

The failure here is explained at times by complicated weather conditions. Truly, the weather does not favor the Karaganda workers. But even under these conditions a number of sovkhozes succeeded in achieving some progress. For example, in Michurinskiy Rayon, which has fallen somewhat behind, there is the Koksunskiy Sovkhoz, a large and complex farm. And here the livestock breeders are from year to year increasing their production and output of products. Molodezhnyy Rayon as a whole, for a considerable period of time, has managed to maintain its production level. Even last year, a difficult one, it fulfilled its planned task for selling milk to the state one month shead of schedule. But there are only a few such examples. Why is this?

When we discuss a specific incident, then in response we receive counterarguments: large dairy complexes were built in Molodezhnyy Rayon for the new sovkhozes. But the complex erected at the Sovkhoz imeni Kirov in Telmanskiy Rayon is equally as modern. I have visited it on more than one occasion. A large farm, it has long been considered the oblast's flagship. And thus it is very sad to note the unenviable position which the sovkhoz is in at the present time.

The rayon's leaders find many reasons for this. In my opinion however, one of the chief such reasons is the fact that the farm now has its fourth director since the beginning of the five-year plan. For several years the farm was headed by a strong specialist and organizer A. Khristenko, who in the oblast committee was openly slighted for his independence by the 1st secretary of the rayon party committee P. Ishchenko. Finally, in order to alleviated the situation, the stubborn director was removed and his post occupied by the former rayon leader. And here his "ability to work with people" was revealed in all its splendor. P. Ishchenko not only disrupted the operation of this large farm, but in addition he antagonized the entire collective. Strangely enough, he was transferred to the oblast center to the post of chairman of the oblast's trade union committee for agricultural workers.

By no means is the above example an exception. Many facts serve to indicate that the transferring of errant leaders from one post to another represents a definite approach being employed by the oblast party committee in its work with people. And on the other hand, as already mentioned, support is not always found in the oblast for independent and knowledgeable specialists. During conferences and meetings, a considerable amount of criticism falls upon the director of the Mirnyy Sovkhoz in Molodezhnyy Rayon P. Karlov. It is said that he does not carry out watering operations on time and that the sowing work is not correct. Yet the farm was the first in the oblast to fulfill its five-year plan for potato sales and it always has a good supply of feed.

The mentioned facts provide another argument for reflection. The Karaganda workers intend to solve a majority of their problems by simply expanding

production. Nobody argues with the fact that construction must go forward. But each step must be taken into account on more than one occasion and the return must be considered.

The 1st secretary of the oblast party committee A. Korkin believes that the key to improving dairy cattle husbandry lies in increasing the area of irrigated land. He mentions the degree to which the irrigated land should be increased during the five-year plan -- 45,000 hectares. Only then will it be possible to eliminate the feed shortage, which amounts to 30-50 percent annually.

And here is what the land reclamation specialists have to say. Each year the cultivation of forage crops under irrigation conditions costs the oblast's farms no less than 30 million rubles. Each ruble invested produces an output of only 70-80 kopecks. Thus an expansion in irrigated land still produces a loss.

Some of the reasons for the above, particularly a low culture of irrigation work, have already been mentioned. A lack of discipline on the part of specialists and the inability of local party and soviet organs to raise discipline and to be more exacting of economic specialists also interfere with operations to some degree. Thus it happens that one out of every three sprinkling units lies inactive out on the oblast's fields during the peak period of the summer. Each year, thousands of hectares of "irrigated land" remain without water.

During a recent meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, it was mentioned that over the past two five-year plans more than 1 billion rubles had been allocated for agricultural development in Karaganda Oblast. However, these investments are not producing the desired results; the rayons continue to be unable to fulfill their tasks for the production and procurements of products.

This is borne out by the economic indicators of the farms. Fifty, nine sovkhozes attached to the oblast agricultural administration completed the year 1984 with losses amounting to 36 million rubles. Ten of them each lost from 1 to 1.5 million rubles. And in the oblast agroindustrial association for the production of fruit and vegetable products, 13 of 16 forms operated at a loss.

Thus it turned out that not one of the levers selected by the oblast committee and the oblast executive committee for achieving a sharp improvement in livestock husbandry throughout the oblast actually worked. And judging by the situation, not enough concern was displayed for holding to that promise.

Today the oblast party committee considers the fulfillment of the 6 month plan for meat procurements to have been a considerable success. In particular, Nurinskiy Rayon achieved considerable growth compared to last year -- by almost twofold. But can we take pleasure in such a "jump"? Indeed the average daily weight increase in young bulls here is only 186 grams. The weight of animals in Michurinskiy and Yegindybulakskiy rayons is increasing even more slowly. Yes and it can be said for the oblast as a whole that the cattle being delivered to the meat combines is of the lowest quality for the republic. The average weight of the animals does not exceed 300 kilograms.

Certainly, there are farms which are experiencing difficulties that are preventing them from raising animals in a high nutritional state. But this alone can hardly explain the reduction during the years of the five-year plan in this important indicator -- of 100 kilograms. Here again, almost all of the sovkhoz leaders with whom I held discussions were unanimous -- this vicious method of force planning and the desire to fulfill a plan at any price must be eliminated. They explained that, under pressure from above, the farms produce losses for themselves and the state in the form of low-weight and at times lean cattle.

With such a style of management, it difficult to expect a thorough analysis of the economic indicators, strict accounting for all expenses or a self-critical evaluation of the situation. Mention has been made at more than one plenum and at more than one meeting of an aktiv of the limits outlined in the 1982 decree and an attempt is not being made to understand the reasons for the breakdown.

Thus the last few years have been difficult ones for the Karaganda workers. Instead of moving forward and instead of planning an improvement in livestock husbandry during the final stage of the five-year plan, they had to devote thought to repaying their obligation and to regaining positions which they lost earlier. This history once again confirms the fact that large tasks require great and serious preparations and persistent organizational and mass-political work. Only on this basis will the oblast's communists be able to find real opportunities for eliminating the lag that has developed and for accelerating the rates for developing this most important branch.

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LIVESTOCK

NPO FOR TURKMEN LIVESTOCK BREEDING URGED

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 5 Sep 85 p 2

[Article by K. Seidov, candidate of agricultural sciences: "To Combine Efforts"]

[Text] April and July (1985) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and subsequent conferences at the Central Committee raised questions concerning the improvement in the management of the agroindustrial complex and discussed the prospects for scientific production associations both in industry and in agriculture.

There is no read to prove how important efficiently organized pedigree stock work is in the growth of productivity of animal husbandry and how it contributes to an increase in the production of meat, milk and other farm products. Unfortunately, it must be stated that in our republic the state pedigree stockbreeding service does not yet have a perceptible effect on a rise in animal husbandry. It seems that the lack of coordination of forces is the principal cause. One organization manages the raising of young pedigree stock and another, the shipment from other republics. That is why the path of introduction of scientific recommendations into production is so long. Some of them do not reach farms at all.

Meanwhile, the practice of fraternal republics--Uzbekistan, the RSFSR, Kirghizia, Moldavia, Belorussia and others, where scientific production associations for pedigree stockbreeding have been long established and operate, associations under whose subordination sectorial scientific research institutes, trusts of pedigree stock farms and other related subdivisions have been placed--speaks in favor of the unification of forces.

In brief, it is necessary to put an end to the lack of coordination in pedigree stockbreeding, to unify forces and to establish a NPO [scientific production association], selecting a structure most acceptable for our conditions. The forces are considerable: republic and oblast state pedigree stock stations, a pedigree animal husbandry association with its subdivisions, the Main Administration for the Management of Pedigree Stock Farms of the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Agriculture, inspectorates for pedigree stock work of the Main Administration of Animal Husbandry of the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Agriculture, divisions and laboratories of the Turkmen Scientific Research

Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science and affiliates of the All-Union Institute of Karakul Breeding. The ultimate goal of all is the same, that is, the development of new breeds and breeding groups, lines and families and improvement in the breeding qualities of animals aimed at raising their productivity and pedigree qualities.

Along with state associations interfarm associations for the artificial insemination of cattle also operate. Every organization and every enterprise and association try to maximally expand their apparatus. The system of management of the pedigree service has proved to be cumbersome. But after the establishment of the NPO it could be more flexible.

The lack of coordination even in the activities of state organizations is of no benefit to this matter. What happens? The pedigree farm sells and the kolkhoz and sovkhoz buy pedigree animals, while the oblast office of the pedigree animal husbandry association only records the purchases and sale of animals. The tasks of state pedigree stock stations for the artificial insemination of animals are by no means reduced to the attainment of high end results. Stations are more interested in the sale of the sperm of highly productive sires. Hence the lack of coordination and disinterest in the chief thing--increase in meat and milk production.

Pedigree stock plants, sovkhozes and farms supplying pedigree animals are subordinate to the RAPO [rayon agroindustrial association] and to the Main Administration for the Management of Pedigree Stock Farms of the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Agriculture. The raising of pedigree livestock even on specialized sovkhozes is not the basic indicator of their work. The production of milk, meat, wool or karakul skins, whose sale plays a significant role in the farm economy, is the chief thing.

So far farms engaged in the production of pedigree animals in cattle and horse breeding have remained diversified and have a fragmented production structure, which hampers scientific and technical progress in the sector. For example, in the republic there are 20 pedigree stock farms for the breeding of dairy cattle, including 14 on farms of cotton growing specialization and 4, of vegetable raising specialization.

The production of pedigree stock products has long met the conditions necessary for its transformation into an independent sector. Therefore, it is time to separate pedigree stockbreeding from commodity production. First of all, sovkhozes of the Main Administration for the Management of Pedigree Stock Farms of the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Agriculture should be specialized. There are 3 state pedigree stock plants and 13 pedigree stock farms for sheep breeding alone.

However, karakul, wool and mutton are still the basic products, that is, the sectorial structure is fully subordinate to the production of sheep breeding products. The raising of pedigree animals does not occupy the leading place. Throughout the Administration of State Pedigree Stock Farms the proportion of pedigree livestock in the structure of the commodity output of sheep breeding comprises 17 percent.

The task of increasing the efficiency of agricultural production on the basis of its intensification and acceleration of scientific and technical progress put forward by the party requires a closer link of science with production.

The decisions of the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee pointed out the need to develop a network of scientific production associations established on the basis of sectorial and zonal scientific research organizations and to concentrate the raising of pedigree livestock in them in order to provide kolkhozes and sovkhozes with it.

Therefore, I consider it advisable to establish in the republic a scientific production association for pedigree animal husbandry on the basis of the Turkmen Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, the Turkmen Affiliate of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Karakul Breeding, the Turkmen Republic State Station for Pedigree Stockbreeding and Artificial Insemination of Farm Animals, its oblast stations, the republic association for the purchases and sale of pedigree livestock, the division of the state inspectorate for pedigree work, the Main Administration of Animal Husbandry of the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Agriculture and the Main Administration for the Management of Pedigree Stock Farms of the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Agriculture.

It is advisable to subordinate 3 state pedigree stock plants and 13 pedigree stock farms for sheep breeding, the Sayvan Sovkhoz in Bakhardenskiy Rayon, the Komsomol Horse Plant, the Sakar-Chaga Camel Breeding Plant, the Turkmenistan Pedigree Camel Sovkhoz in Krasnovodskiy Rayon, Karabekaul and Tashauz hog breeding sovkhozes, the scientific experimental base of the Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and oblast interfarm associations for the artificial insemination of cattle to the NPO. All pedigree stock farms retain their legal independence.

The scientific production association improves the productive and pedigree qualities of the raised breeds of animals, carries out in-depth pedigree-selection work on raising new breeds, lines and hybrids of animals in order to fully meet the needs of animal husbandry complexes and farms for them, develops and introduces advanced keeping and feeding techniques and measures of prevention and control of animal diseases, plans and introduces measures for pedigree work and the artificial insemination of animals, controls their fulfillment on kolkhozes, sovkhozes and interfarm associations and is engaged in the purchases and sale of pedigree and improved animals.

The efforts of NPO scientists must be directed toward an acceleration of scientific and technical progress and a rise in the efficiency of overall research and of the time of introduction of its results into production.

The NPO should operate according to a single thematic plan and be responsible for the scientific and technical level of the research conducted by it and the efficiency of utilization of its results in agricultural production.

The further improvement in the work of the NPO in pedigree animal husbandry is organically connected with the refinement in the mechanism of management, strengthening of cost accounting relations among all subdivisions and

enhancement of the role of material incentives in the fight for the end results of work.

The establishment of the NPO will ensure closer cooperation between workers in science and agricultural production and will increase the responsibility of scientific and production collectives for the organization of research and a practical application of scientific and technical achievements, which will contribute to an improvement in pedigree-selection work, to a rise in the productive and pedigree qualities of farm animals and to a successful realization of the Food Program.

UDC 636.52/58.081

MOLDAVIAN POULTRY PRODUCTION POTENTIAL UNDERUTILIZED

Kishinev SELSKOYE KHOZYAYSTVO MOLDAVII in Russian No 8, Aug 85 pp 39-40

/Article by I. Sochkan and G. Moroshan, Moldptitseprom Scientific Production Association: "Poor Utilization of Poultry Genetic Resources"/

/Text/ At the present time, all pedigree and commodity poultry production in the republic is concentrated in the Moldptitseprom NPO /Scientific Production Association/. Fine conditions have been created for the rapid development of the branch and for organizing poultry meat and egg production on an industrial basis, with use being made of the latest achievements of science, engineering and leading technology.

During the years of the 11th Five-Year Plan and compared to the 10th Five-Year Plan, the average annual production of poultry meat and eggs on farms of the NPO increased by 44 and 18 percent respectively (meat by 9,800 tons and eggs by 92.6 million units). Increases took place during these years in the procurement volumes for poultry production products: poultry meat -- by 40 percent and eggs -- by 16 percent.

On the whole, these rather good results confirm the correct path being followed in the development of poultry production. A great amount of concern is being displayed for strengthening the logistical base for poultry production. There are presently 31 poultry factories of the industrial type in operation throughout the republic. The value of the fixed productive capital in poultry production is 200 million rubles. An increase has taken place in the level of mechanization of work processes in poultry production (90 percent compared to 36 percent in 1965). At the same time, the indicators for production intensification have also increased.

Today however we are still not pleased with the achievements realized in the area of science and production. Despite the considerable growth that has taken place in the quantitative indicators, the needs of the population are still not being satisfied fully. Thus, in accordance with the scientifically sound nutritional norms, 290 eggs and 19.5 kilograms of poultry meat must be produced per capita and yet today these figures are considerably lower -- approximately 200 eggs and 10 kilograms of poultry meat. The quality indicators are also inadequate.

The productivity of the egg and meat strains of poultry continues to remain low. We are lagging considerably behind such republics as Lithuania, Estonia,

Latvia and Belorussia in this regard. Alongside the leading farms, we have many where poultry production is being carried out on a low level, the technological methods are being violated, the zootechnical and veterinary requirements are not being observed and where considerable over-expenditures of feed and high poultry losses are being tolerated.

Rather alarming is the fact that the poultry genetic resources are still not being utilized in an efficient manner in all areas -- the principal means of production in the poultry industry. Recently the specialists and scientists of Moldptitseprom carried out a definite amount of work aimed at strengthening technological discipline and this had a positive effect on commodity and pedigree poultry production.

Current and long-range plans have been prepared for the pedigree work and technological interaction between the pedigree and commodity farms has been developed and is being introduced into operations successfully. This has made it possible to introduce a hybridization system. The production of pedigree products has increased. In 1984 alone, the basic pedigree farms produced about 150 million pedigree chicken and duck eggs, including broiler crosses -- 55 million and for egg production types -- 70 million.

All of the commodity poultry factories are being supplied with hybrid poultry in accordance with technological schedules and now pedigree products are not longer being imported from other republics.

Nevertheless, there are still many areas of neglect. First of all, concern must be displayed for making use of the production capabilities. Similar to other indicators, this indicator can also vary considerably. A maximum yield of pedigree products per unit of usable poultry house space is being obtained at the Novobrynzenskiy and Abakliyskiy pedigree poultry sovkhozes (512 and 532 eggs per square meter of space respectively). The poultry productivity is also highest here. Very poor use is being made of the production areas at the Pyrlitskiy Pedigree Poultry Sovkhoz.

Another factor for use in evaluating in a very strict manner the work of the pedigree farms -- is the yieldof pedigree products, that is, how much of the products produced was used for reproduction purposes. When the work is carried out correctly, only the first 6-7 eggs from meat poultry are not used for incubation the remainder require complete incubation. But how is the work actually proceeding? If the Abakliyskiy PPS /pedigree poultry sovkhoz/ was mentioned as being one of the best installations, then we could say nothing about it with regard to this particular problem. Deserving of criticism are the Pyrlitskiy Pedigree Poultry Sovkhoz and the Talmazskiy State Poultry Factory, where the construction of a separate reproduction zone is nearing completion and there is a good incubator. However, owing to violations of technological discipline and the zooveterinary norms, the factory from year to year is recording low productivity indicators. And as a result -- it has been forced into importing hybrid chicks from outside for the broiler zone. This is very costly for the farm and it is also dangerous from a veterinary standpoint. In addition to productivity, the breeding of chicks and the yield of pedigree poultry products are lowest (64 percent) at the Talmazskiy State Poultry Factory.

What are the principal problems of the meat poultry reproducers? It is our opinion that they can be reduced mainly to zootechnical derelictions in the raising of replacement young stock. The majority of the reproducers are not introducing into operations an approved or well proven method for the separate maintenance of young hens and cockerels. In the interest of obtaining more meat, overcrowding is being tolerated and differentiated conditions for feeding and for the light regime are not being created. As a result, it becomes impossible to obtain quality-standardized pullets and cockerels. The yield of pullets from day-old young stock as a rule is 60-65 percent instead of 85-90 percent, as is the case on leading farms.

Quite often the specialists utilize incorrectly limited feeding for replacment young stock. On some farms (Novobrynzenskiy and Rybnitskiy PPS's) it is used late -- at the age of 60 days instead of 7 weeks and on some farms it is not used whatsoever. Late limited feeding leads to adiposity in the poultry and thus their live weight at the moment they become laying hens is 3 or more kilograms instead of 2.1-2.2 kilograms. Naturally, one can hardly expect to realize a high productivity from such poultry.

There are also derelictions in the raising of adult chickens. Some reproducers, in the interest of achieving a high egg production, are not observing the normative period for the use of laying hens. On such farms the productive period lasts only 6-7 months and the turnover for the flock for all practical purposes is 1.5-1.6 months. At other enterprises there is either a shortage or complete lack of nests, they are poorly equipped and lack bedding, they are installed high above the floor and are not darkened and, as a result, the hens lay their eggs on the floor resulting in contaminated eggs being shipped for food purposes. It should be remembered that a nest measuring 35 X 40 centimeters is adequate for only five laying hens and that is should be installed at a height of 50 centimeters above the floor. In addition, perches should be available at a height of 25 centimeters so as to ensure flight for the poultry.

Poultry egg production is also confronted with the problem of increasing the percentage of egg use for incubation purposes. At both pedigree farms (Dubossarskiy GPPZ and Yedinetskiy PPS) it is still low and amounts to 30 and 23 percent respectively. Here, 3-4 commodity farms from the republic's northern zone should be assigned technologically to the Yedinetskiy Pedigree Poultry Sovkhoz and the Dubossarskiy State Pedigree Poultry Plant should increase its sale of incubation eggs to IPS's /incubator poultry-raising stations / outside the republic.

The duck reproducters have many reserves at their disposal for creating highly productive animals, for organizing production and for obtaining high quality products.

A common and important problem for all of the enterprises continues to be that of ensuring that the pedigree farms are supplied with heat-treated mixed feed. The MSSR Ministry of Procurements has still not found a solution for this problem.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

MESYATS ADDRESSES AGRICULTURAL DAY MEETING

PM151516 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Oct 85 pp 1-2

[Yu. Savin report: "The Country Honors the Farmers; Celebration Meeting in Moscow To Mark Agricultural Workers' Day"]

[Excerpts] Today's holiday is being celebrated at a significant time. The country is preparing for the party's 27th congress and is striving to complete the current 5-year period with the best results and pass on a good legacy to the 12th 5-Year Plan. The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the materials of the CPSU Central Committee conference on questions of accelerating scientific and technical progress and of the party aktiv meetings in Leningrad, Dnepropetrovsk, Minsk, Tyumen, and Tselinograd have generated a new upsurge of production and political activeness and found a warm response among all working people. The working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, and the people's intelligentsia welcomed with unanimous approval the party's course of strengthening discipline and order and improving organization, exactingness, and cadres' responsibility.

This was stated yesterday at the celebration meeting held in Moscow to mark Agricultural Workers' Day. Distinguished masters of fields and livestock units, specialists, organizers of kolkhoz and sovkhoz production, and representatives of enterprises and organizations of agroindustrial complex sectors from all corners of the country gathered in the capital's Central State Concert Hall.

In the meeting presidium were V.P. Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Z.N. Nuriyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; USSR and RSFSR ministers; and senior workers of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, ministries, and departments. Alongside them were veterans of the Stakhanovite movement, production frontrunners and innovators, and scientists.

V.K. Mesyats, USSR minister of agriculture, who delivered a report, conveyed to the participants in the celebration meeting and all workers of the agroindustrial complex warm greetings and cordial congratulations from the party's Central Committee on the coming holiday and wishes for new successes in labor, happiness, and prosperity.

Substantial positive changes are taking place in the countryside, as indeed throughout the national economy. In the current 5-year plan big capital

investments have been channeled into agriculture. Fixed production capital has considerably expanded, the areas of reclaimed land have increased, and the machine and tractor pool has been renewed and supplemented. There has been an increase in deliveries of mineral fertilizers and other chemicalization means and in electricity consumption.

The scale of work in the social transformation of the countryside is huge. Housing, cultural and consumer establishments and highways are being built on a wide scale. The material situation of kolkhoz members and sovkhoz workers is improving and wages and payments from the social consumption fund are increasing.

Thanks to the material and technical potential created in agriculture, the improvement in the level of its utilization, the perceptible activization of organizational and mass political work by party organizations and Soviet and agricultural organs, and the increased skill and enterprising work of rural workers, the meeting noted, it has been possible since the CPSU Central Committee May (1982) Plenum to straighten things out in many components of the agrarian economy and to reach the targets envisaged by the Food Program for a number of indicators. The situation in terms of supplying the population with high-value food products has improved somewhat.

And in the current concluding year of the 5-year plan, despite the fact that there have been extreme weather conditions in certain major agricultural regions, many kolkhozes and sovkhozes have grown quite a good harvest of grain and other crops. The farmers of the North Caucasus, the central Chernozem Oblasts, and the Volga region have carried out the harvesting in a short space of time. The graingrowers of the Urals and West and East Siberia have displayed real self-lessness in the struggle for grain. The graingrowers of the Bashkir, Tatar, and Chuvash ASSR's, Omsk, Moscow, Tyumen, Kurgan, Tula, and Gorkiy Oblasts, and Krasnoyarsk Kray have worked with great intensity.

In the Ukrainian SSR the most weighty results in growing gross yields of grain and selling it to the state have been achieved by farmers in Voroshilovgrad, Ternopol, Zhitomir, Vinnitsa, Khmelnitskiy, Cherkassy, Odessa, Poltava, and Kiev Oblasts.

The grain harvesting has basically been completed in the extensive fields of Kazakhstan. The republic's workers are doing everything to sell to the state the maximum possible high-quality grain. The graingrowers of Kustanay, North Kazakhstan, and Kokchetav Oblasts are confidently at the head of the competitors.

The kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Belorussian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Azerbaijani, Estonian, Moldavian, and Armenian SSR's and of all the country's republics and oblasts are making their own contribution to replenishing the state grain resources. Thanks to the increase in the overall standard of agrotechnics and the assimilation of intensive methods, the quality of the grain being delivered has improved perceptibly.

The cottom growers are working with great intensity, and their deeds and thoughts are subject to a single aim—to fulfill not only the plans for the current year but also the 5-year plan as a whole. The fall harvesting is continuing in

potato, vegetable, and sugar beet plantations, orchards, and vineyards. The main thing now is to gather the harvest that has been grown in full and ensure that it is preserved to the maximum extent.

Even on the holiday the stockraisers are maintaining a labor vigil. They were able to increase meat purchases by 349,000 metric tons, milk by 1,297,000 metric tons, and eggs by 977 million in the first 9 months of the year compared with the same period last year. The entire increase was obtained on the basis of increasing livestock and poultry productivity. There are real possibilities virtually everywhere to fulfill the plans for procurements of livestock products.

The experience of the socialist competition stalwarts is evidence of what great reserves our agriculture has at its disposal. And it is only natural that on festive days Soviet people talk not only of achievements but also of ways to improve the results of economic management. The speaker noted how important it is on every kolkhoz and sovkhoz and in all rayons and oblasts to analyze in depth and in detail the results of what has been done, to elaborate a concrete system of measures making it possible even in the first year of the new 5-year plan to use to the greatest effect the economic potential created in the country-side and the financial, material, and technical resources generously channeled by the party into the further intensification of agriculture, and to reorient each sector and each enterprise onto the intensive path of development.

The central key problem was and remains increasing grain production. It is necessary to seek to ensure that the country obtains at least 200 million metric tons of grain in any year with unfavorable weather conditions, and 250 or more million metric tons in normal conditions. In order to successfully cope with this strategic task it is necessary to review creatively everywhere zonal scientifically substantiated systems of farming and to supplement them with the most effective means and methods. The main emphasis is being placed on the competent assimilation of intensive methods of cultivating grain crops. Thanks to their application, on almost 17 million hectares this year kolkhozes and sovkhozes have gathered more than 10 million extra metric tons of highquality grain and recouped all expenses incurred with interest. The result could be even more weighty if technological discipline was not violated in a number of places: deadlines for sowing, applying fertilizers, and using agents to combat grain crop diseases and pests. For next year's harvest the sown area of grain crops to be cultivated on the basis of intensive technology is being expanded to 31 million hectares. Therefore during the fall and winter period agricultural organs and agroindustrial associations will have to continue instructing farmers in the new techniques and, most importantly, earmark for and supply to farms all the necessary material and technical resources and increase exactingness for their efficient utilization.

The transfer of grain farming to an intensive basis requires the integrated and highly productive use of all elements in zonal farming systems. There can no longer be acceptance of a situation in which many farms do not cultivate fallow fields promptly and, instead of being truly reconditioned, they frequently become breeding grounds for weeds and do not yield the requisite return. It is also a question of considerably increasing the efficiency of reclaimed land utilization.

The yield capacity of grain fields largely depends on improvements in the work of selection and seed-breeding experts. The areas being sown to new strains are being expanded. Nevertheless many selection centers are failing to fully meet production requirements. The rate of development of new strains which are immune to various diseases and pests, lodge-proof, and more resistant to drought and winter is still unsatisfactory. As yet there are no high-yield strains of grain crops for cultivating on reclaimed land. The lag in developing good varieties of spring wheat for Urals, Kazakhstan, and Siberian regions has not been overcome. As yet only one-third of grain areas are being sown with top-class seeds. Substantial opportunities for further intensifying production also exist in other sectors of plant cultivation.

Stockraisers also possess great reserves for increasing production and improving quality. To bring them into play more rapidly and effectively it is necessary to continue to improve selection and breeding work and to considerably improve the utilization of breeding resources.

Meat production is the tensest sector in stockraising. A broad package of measures has been formulated and is being persistently implemented to eliminate most speedily the lag which has developed here. They make provision in the next few years for an increase in hybridization levels in hog raising, a more forceful and vigorous transition of meat stockraising, sheep raising, horse raising, and reindeer raising to the intensive path of development, and the broader utilization of the opportunities offered by industrial poultry raising.

Of course, an increase in the return from intensive factors is wholly dependent on the state of the feed base. More hay, haylage, and silage has been laid in this year than last. Nevertheless the problem of developing feed production is not losing its acuteness and urgency even today.

The party's demand for the economy to be made as receptive as possible to scientific and technical progress dictates the consistent and persistent resolution of a dual task--increasing the scientific backup for production in every way and radically restructuring activity to introduce its achievements at every level. The things which Soviet agricultural science has to its credit are generally recognized. At the same time in recent years many scientific research establishments and VUZ science have slackened the attention they devote to the development of fundamental research. Scientific resources must be concentrated on the development of such fundamental areas as molecular biology, biotechnology, and computerization. Research into ensuring the expanded reproduction of soil fertility, the creation of new types of fertilizer and comprehensive chemical and biological agents to combat plant predators and diseases, the problems of ensuring the stable profitable operation of enterprises, and others are matters of priority importance. It is also necessary to restructure the system and hone indicators for introducing new development in such a way that they rank among the priority indicators when assessing the results of farms' work.

The galvanization of the human factor is also linked with reliance on economic levers of management. It is a question of making extensive use of the normative method of planning and making better use of financial autonomy and the collective contract. The earnings of farm and agricultural organ leaders and specialists must be made directly dependent on the quantity and quality of output

produced. In this respect a number of intensive experiments are being conducted in the country. It is necessary to generalize accumulated experience without delay and on that basis complete the elaboration of proposals to further increase the material interest of work.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

NONCHERNOZEM ZONE APK DEVELOPMENT, GOALS OUTLINED

Moscow EKONOMISCHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 29, Jul 85 p 1

[Unsigned article: "Limits of the New 5-Year Plan: The 5-Year Plan for the Agro-Industrial Complex of the Nonchernozem Zone of the RSFSR"]

[Text] The agro-industrial complex of the Russian Nonchernozem Zone is making a great contribution to the realization of the USSR Food Program. This zone includes over 10,200 kolkhozes, sovkhozes and interfarm enterprises and produces one-third of the gross agricultural output. During the 10th and 11th 5-Year Plans significant work was carried out in the Nonchernozem Zone of Russia to strengthen the material-technical base of agriculture and related industrial sectors, and to reorganize the village socially.

Over 65 million rubles of capital investments in the entire complex were directed toward development of the Russian Nonchernozem Zone's agriculture. For this period the fixed production capital of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes doubled and the energy capacity increased 1.7 fold. Residential homes of 46 million square meters in combined area have been constructed, and hard-surface roads have been extended by more than 60,000 kilometers. Over 2.5 million hectares of reclaimed and irrigated land have been put into use. All of this has permitted a significant increase in the general production zone and in state purchases of agricultural products.

In addition to this, as is noted in the recently adopted decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Further Developing and Increasing the Efficiency of Agriculture and Other Sectors of the Agro-Industrial Complex of the RSFSR Nonchernozem Zone in 1986-1990," the potential possibilities that have been created here are not being used fully, and great material-technical resources and production assets still are not returning the necessary yield. The paths toward elimination of these short-comings and an increase in efficiency of the agro-industrial complex formed the topic of the conference of party, soviet and economic workers of the autonomous republics and oblasts of the RSFSR Nonchernozem Zone which took place recently in Kostroma.

There a system of measures for the further development and increased efficiency of agriculture and other sectors of the agro-industrial complex of the Russian Nonchernozem Zone was defined by the party and the state.

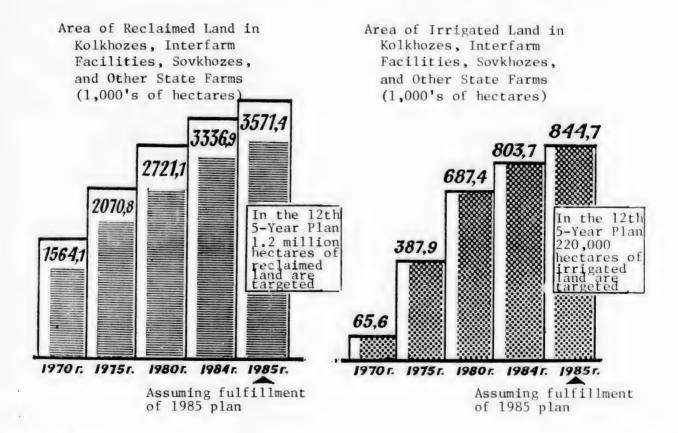
In comparison with the average annual level achieved in the 11th 5-Year Plan, by 1990 an increase of 17-20 percent is predicted in the improved production of gross agricultural production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, as well as a 20-22 percent rise in the productivity of labor.

In all, 46 billion rubles of capital investments will be set aside for the realization of the Russian Nonchernozem Zone development program in the 12th 5-Year Plan. Up to 390,000 tractors, 104,000 grain-harvesting combines, 263,000 trucks and much other equipment will be supplied for agriculture. It is targeted to lead by 1990 to the supply of mineral fertilizer in bulk to 6.79 million tons of foodstuffs. Also, measures have been specified to raise the level of mechanization of work in animal husbandry, and the complex mechanization of the cultivation and harvest of potatoes, fiber flax, sugar beets and feed crops.

In order successfully and efficiently to implement the designated measures in developing the Russian Nonchernozem Zone, it is necessary to raise the level of economic work on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and in all the agro-industrial associations of the rayons, oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics. In the working collectives all that is necessary for the universal introduction of economic accounting in every subdivision, progressive forms or organization, and labor remuneration must be achieved. In all facilities it is important to develop a wide discussion of draft plans for the 12th 5-Year Plan, to concentrate the working collectives' efforts on finding opportunities not only to achieve but also to exceed the specified control figures.

Bearing in mind the necessity of the furthest development of economic accounting relations in agriculture, a wide study of the most advanced experience of organizing economic accounting, and a collective contract between kolkhozniks, sovkhoz workers, specialists and cadre leaders must be guaranteed to enable them to use the study together.

The perfecting of cost accounting relations—both between intrafarm sections, and between enterprises and organizations of the agro-industrial complex of the rayon, oblast, kray, and republic—is one of the burning tasks in the successful solution of which the leaders, specialists and collective workers of all the agro-industrial complex (APK) links must participate actively in light of the demands of the April (1985) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and of the conference on the problems of speeding up scientific—technical progress.



12926/9365 CSO: 1824/492

AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

PROBLEMS OF APK TERRITORIAL, BRANCH STRUCTURE EXAMINED

Moscow PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 7, Jul 85 pp 90-94

[Article by V. Komarov, Director of TsNIITEIpishcheprom [Central Scientific Research Institute of Information and Technical and Economic Research of the Food Industry, candidate of economic sciences and by L. Dashevskaya, sector director and candidate of science of law: "Territorial-Branch Structure of the APK [Agro-Industrial Complex] and Problems of Improving It"]

[Text] The systematic growth of the proportion of agricultural products used in processed form is an integral feature of the modern economy. Industrial processing achieves the preservation of cultivated products and a prolongation of the time in which they can be used, varies the structure of nutrition and improves the quality of consumption. In connection with this, more and more significance is acquired by the development of proportional and balanced ties between agricultural enterprises and industry's processing branches. The fulfillment of the country's Food Program greatly depends on the adjustment of these ties.

The organization of management of branches of the APK is implemented on the basis of a combination of branch and territorial management principles. The foundation and practical application of the most effective forms of such a combination is one of the most complex problems of modern management.

In the country over 3,100 agro-industrial associations have been created in rayons (RAPO [Rayon Agro-Industrial Association]) and over 150--in oblasts, krays and republics (ASSR's). Among the basic tasks of these associations is the improvement of interbranch economic ties that facilitate the achievement of organizational-economic unity of the agro-industrial complex and the orientation of the activities of enterprises and organizations which are part of the association toward the end result.

How in specific terms is the combination of branch and territorial organizational forms being achieved within the framework of rayon, oblast, kray and republic (ASSR) agro-industrial associations?

From the point of view of the administration the inclusion of enterprises from various branches in the territorial APK was not new. The principle of dual subordination has been known for a long time within the practice of economic

building. Thus, enterprises of the food industry that are of local significance are simultaneously subordinate to administrations of the food or bread-baking industry of oblast (city) executive committees and to the ministry of the food industry of the union republic.

During the last 10 years associations have been developing intensively in all branches belonging to the APK. For this reason, within the systems of the USSR Ministry of the Food Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry and others, in addition to enterprises we find numerous association in operation—production, scientific—production and production—agricultural. Implementing an efficient coordination among these associations and territorial APK's is considerably more complex than in the case of individual enterprises.

The coordination of branch and territorial forms is implemented differently in different regions depending on agricultural specialization, on the distribution of processing enterprises and on existing branch and interbranch ties.

At the moment of organizational formulation of the country's territorial APK's, over 600 associations functioned on the level of the basic link within the system of the USSR Ministry of the Food Industry. A third of these associations were included in the RAPO and other territorial APK's fully, as single formations. The remainder were represented in the territorial APK through its individual enterprises.

The selection of a particular form of coordination of branch and territorial links depended largely on the composition of branch associations and the location of the enterprises and organizations that comprise these associations. In places where branch associations consist of enterprises and organizations located in a single rayon (oblast), they joined the territorial APK as single formations. This simplifies the interaction of RAPO councils and other territorial APK's with branch organizations as concerns the development of centralized funds and the joint utilization of equipment, labor force and so on, since the participant in the territorial APK is a plenipotentiary distributor of all branch resources—a branch association itself. It is in this way that branch and territorial administrations are coordinated in Georgia, Moldavia and several other union republics.

The work experience of the RAPO in Georgia with regard to the development and use of centralized funds turned out to be successful, in part because the boundaries between branch and territorial associations coincided. In addition to kolkhozes and sovkhozes the Makharadzevskoye RAPO of the Georgian SSR includes branch associations of the tea industry and enterprises of the canning, dairy and other branches of the processing industry. In the course of several years the RAPO has been creating centralized funds for production development, material incentives, socio-cultural measures and residential building. Each year agricultural and industrial enterprises that belong to the RAPO deduct about 7 million rubles for the formation of centralized funds.

By means of the centralized fund of production development, the sum total of which comprises 2.5 million rubles annually, new capacities are being built

and existing capacities are being expanded for the processing of tea leaves; the same is true for mini-factories for the primary processing of tea leaves in kolkhozes.

The centralized fund for material incentives is utilized to stimulate the work of permanent and seasonal workers involved in the processing of tea leaves. Supplementary wages to workers of tea factories from the centralized fund of material incentives, comprising 800,000-900,000 rubles annually, have enabled us to eliminate the shortage in the work force and to expand the volume of processing of agricultural products, which stimulates kolkhozes and sovkhozes to further expand the production of tea leaves.

Deserving of attention is the experience of coordinating branch and territorial management principles in the Moldavian SSR, where the development of the RAPO took on a special form. Rayon agro-industrial complexes have been created here in order to improve management activities of organizational forms of agricultural and processing branches which have developed in the republic and which have justified themselves in practice.

These complexes consist of a rayon kolkhoz council and productionagricultural2 and other associations of the republic's ministry of viticulture and viniculture, ministry of agriculture, ministry of the fruit and vegetable industry, ministry of the food industry, ministry of procurement and a number of other republic ministries and departments as well as kolkhozes, sovkhozesplants, sovkhozes, interfarm formations and others. Because the participation of associations from various branches in agro-industrial complexes has been foreseen, an order of planning procurement of agricultural products, which takes the aforementioned specifics of organization of territorial APK's into consideration, has been in effect in the republic since 1983. The fact is that at the present time there are contradictions between branch and territorial systems for procuring agricultural products. According to the branch system, plan tasks, including those concerning the procurement of agricultural products, must be assigned by management organs to associations, and by associations -- to enterprises subordinate to them and to production units comprising these associations.

In accordance with the territorial system, the tasks confirmed by the rayon council of people's deputies regarding the sale of agricultural products are assigned to kolkhozes and sovkhozes by this organ.

The order for procurement planning established by the Moldavian SSR Council of Ministers for the republic eliminates this contradiction. In every rayon, the council on questions of the agro-industrial complex, with the participation of involved enterprises, examines drafts of plans to sell the state agricultural products by branch agro-industrial associations in the cross-section of sovkhozes-plants, sovkhozes and others on the basis of state procurement plans assigned in the established order and submits them for confirmation by the rayon council of people's deputies. The plans for the sale of agricultural products to the state that are actually confirmed by the latter are assigned to enterprises.

Many production and production-agricultural associations of the processing industry include enterprises and organizations that are located not in one but in several rayons, oblasts and krays. For example, within the system of the Main Administration on Horticulture, Viticulture and the Wine Industry (Glavplodvinprom) of the Ukrainian SSR it is possible to single out three variants for coordinating branch and territorial forms. In the first variant, the production-agricultural association belongs fully to the oblast agroindustrial association (for example, the Voroshilovgrad, Sumy, Khmelnitskiy and other associations). In the second variant, the production-agricultural association is a part of the oblast agro-industrial association but here independent sovkhozes subordinate to it are members of the RAPO according to their location (for example, the Poltava Production-Agricultural Association of Ukrainian SSR Glavplodvinprom is a part of the oblast APK, whereas six sovkhozes subordinate to it are in the Lokhvitskoye, Poltavskoye and Kobelyakskoye RAPO's according to location). In the third variant, the branch associations of the Ukrainian SSR Glavplodvinprom are not part of the oblast APK, but the enterprises subordinate to it are part of the RAPO (for example, Donetsk, Transcarpathian, Crimean and others).

Similarly--according to one of the three aforementioned variants--the coordination of various branches of the food industry with the territorial APK in the RSFSR and a number of other union republics has been implemented.

Quite frequently, RAPO members are not even independent enterprises but production units of branch associations. For example, the Frunze Production Association of the Bread-Baking Industry in the Kirghiz SSR includes nine production units; six of them are included in the RAPO according to their location, one--in the collast territorial association, and two--in the republic APK.

Inclusion of production units in the RAPO and other territorial APK's complicates economic relations between partners since production units are neither retainers of capital nor distributors of monetary resources. For example, in practical terms deductions into centralized funds are implemented by the branch association for the production unit. In cases in which the head enterprise of the branch association and the production unit are found in different rayons, delays in accounts and other inconveniences are possible for the RAPO. In connection with this we feel that the decision made by local organs of the Lidskoye Production Association of the Food Concentrate Industry in the Belorussian SSR, according to which the head enterprise (Lidskiy Plant of Food Concentrates) was included in the Lidskoye RAPO and two production units, both vegetable drying enterprises -- in the Novogrudskoye and Vorontsovskoye RAPO, was inexpedient. As a result of this, the technologically-indivisible vegetable-drying and food-concentrate industries turned out to be organizationally separate. It would be more expedient to include the small Lidskoye Association of the Food Concentrate Industry as a single link within the Lidskoye RAPO.

We feel that in evaluating various variants for coordinating branch and territorial forms, participation in the activities of the territorial APK by the branch association should be considered best. We can also make a positive evaluation of the work of the branch association on an oblast scale within the

corresponding territorial APK with the simultaneous participation of independent enterprises in the RAPO. On the other hand, it is inexpedient to separate the production unit from the head enterprise of a given branch association in order to allow it to participate directly in the RAPO. It should be kept in mind that general schemes for managaing the food and meat and dairy industries were confirmed almost 10 years ago, but they have not yet been confirmed by the village or the fruit and vegetable industry. Moreover, the development of the APK creates the task of jointly coordinating general schemes for management by the aforementioned branches.

The variants examined above are included in production and other branch associations with a republic subordination. The associations and enterprises of industrial branches with union subordination, as for example the margarine and perfume-cosmetic industries, are not included in the territorial APK. This is related not so much to their subordination as to the prevalence of secondary processing, which is technologically removed from the raw-materials base, in these industries. This is confirmed, in part, by the fact that agricultural enterprises with national subordination participate in the operations of the RAPO according to their location, following the same order as enterprises with republic subordination. Thus, sovkhozes that are subordinate to the All-Union Agricultural-Industrial Association for the Production and Procurement of Essential-Oil Crops and Oils (Soyuzefirmasloprom) are included in the RAPO according to their location.

In examining the interrelations between agriculture and the processing industry within the APK, let us characterize some forms and methods of work used by RAPO councils to strengthen interbranch ties between the aforementioned enterprises.

Several processing enterprises belong to Shilovskoye RAPO of Ryazan Oblast-Zadubrovskiy Lactic Acid Plant, Ibredskiy Starch-Molasses Plant and Adelinskiy Alcohol Plant. According to a decision of the Shilovskoye RAPO council, in 1984 25,000 rubles were allocated from the centralized production development fund for the acquisition and installation of a truck hoist to unload potatoes at Ibredskiy Starch-Molasses Plant.

The Shilovskoye RAPO council also foresaw, in the rayon plan, the building of paved approach roads about 3 kilometers in length to Adelinskiy Alcohol Plant, at a cost of 300,000 rubles; these roads are of great importance for bringing in freight and for shipping out ready products. In turn, the plant, in considering its partners' interests, organized the reception at the railroad station of potatoes from enterprises that are part of its raw-materials zone. In some enterprises, as for example Iskra Kolkhoz, the plant last year received potatoes directly in the field.

RAPO councils legally have the authority to coordinate plans for the production and processing of agricultural products by rayon enterprises. In accordance with the Model Resolution on Rayon Agro-Industrial Associations, councils examine proposals on plan drafts for procuring agricultural products and delivering them to processing enterprises. Councils also examine plan drafts on the industrial processing of agricultural products (with a consideration of contractual agreements) by the production capacities of

corresponding rayon enterprises and make proposals to higher organs. How do RAPO councils exercise their authority in practice?

Many of them, in examining plan drafts on industrial processing, help to coordinate these plans with plan drafts concerning the procurement of agricultural products. For example, having become familiar with the draft for the production plan of the head oil plant, the council of Mariinskoye RAPO of Kemerovo Oblast felt it was essential to present the oblast association of the dairy industry with the problem of developing the production capacities of the plant and of reception points. Rayon enterprises, which are interested in increasing milk reception by the local plant, have expressed the desire to participate in its expansion on a shared basis.

Despite the availability of positive examples of the active work of RAPO councils to achieve proportionality and balance in plans on producing agricultural products and on their industrial processing, in general we cannot consider this problem to be settled. Problems related to renovating subdepartmental enterprises and to increasing their production capacities are being dealt with slowly. Councils of the oblast agro-industrial association and of several rayon agro-industrial associations are not considering the possibilities of processing industries to a sufficient degree.

In many rayons with the development of the RAPO there was a significant improvement in production relations between farms and industrial enterprises during the period of harvesting and of mass deliveries of products for processing. The staffs, work groups and other similar goal-oriented organs created by RAPO councils facilitate the operation of enterprises, truck transport and industrial enterprises according to a single schedule, thereby avoiding machine idleness at plant gates and the deterioration of products. The experience of a number of RAPO's in Kiev Oblast, which halt harvesting when necessary at a particular stage of the sugar-beet harvest in order to preserve the normal work pace of the sugar plant, is worthy of attention.

The best RAPO councils are characterized by a concerned attitude toward all rayon enterprises and organizations. In Anapskiy Rayon, Krasnodar Kray, grape sovkhoz-plants constantly experienced a shortage of reinforced concrete structures for erecting trellises in vineyards. These structures were brought in from other oblasts, which increased their cost and led to losses. In order to eliminate these difficulties the council of the Anapskoye RAPO studied the possibilities for manufacturing the structures on the premises using the non-utilized capacities of rayon building organizations. Now structures are not being imported from other oblasts.

An important direction in the work of RAPO councils as concerns the development of ties between enterprises and processors is the specialization of raw-materials zones. For example, in a number of rayons of the Latvian SSR, where the processing of potatoes into starch and alcohol occupies an important place in production operations, the cultivation of industrial varieties of potatoes is concentrated in several farming enterprises located close to industrial enterprises; these enterprises are gradually being freed from cultivating potatoes for food needs.

At the same time the scale of work of RAPO councils to achieve a mutually-acceptable work pace among partners is still inadequate. Frequently, enterprises cannot deliver the tomatoes, apples, and other fruits and vegetables they raised in a timely manner and spend a great deal of time on this, which gives rise to additional inefficient expenditures and has a negative effect on the quality of imported products. The rights given to RAPO councils in the area of interbranch production-economic ties are not utilized to the full degree by many of them.

Achieving the necessary proportionality and balance between the production of agricultural products and their industrial processing depends to a large degree on the rayon-by-rayon specialization of agriculture and on the distribution of processing enterprises near enterprises which supply them with agricultural raw materials of various types.

The formation of the country's agro-industrial complex was implemented on the basis of administrative-territorial units--rayons, oblasts, krays and autonomous republics. In a number of regions in the country administrative-territorial boundaries coincide with zonal agricultural specialization, and the processing enterprises located in the given territory are earmarked for processing local agricultural raw materials. In such regions we already have the prerequisites for achieving true organizational-economic unity of the territorial APK and for the development of two branches as a single agro-industrial production branch.

However, these types of conditions cannot be achieved in all administrat veterritorial regions of the country. In many of them agriculture is characterized by a multi-branch structure and the processing enterprises located within a certain territory either do not process all products arriving from the rayon's enterprises or, on the contrary, must receive raw materials for processing from enterprises of other rayons and oblasts.

The concentration of many crops which are subject to processing near large processing enterprises is not great in a number of regions in the country. Thus, the indicator of average beet refinement³ fluctuates significantly by region (from 2-4 to 8-12 percent). Due to the low level of concentration of sugar beet crops, sugar plants cannot satisfy the demand for sugar simply by relying on the closest enterprises. The radius for beet shipments is significantly greater than the optimum in many enterprises—about 40 percent of all sugar beet crops are located more than 50 kilometers from sugar plants, and there are some some that are over 100 kilometers away.

In striving to create balanced agro-industrial production as concerns the production and processing of sugar beets, during the current five-year plan some RAPO councils have increased the area in sugar beets in enterprises characterized by the most favorable conditions. As a result, the number of enterprises sowing beets has been decreasing in recent years whereas the area earmarked for this crop and the procurement of the crop per enterprise are increasing.

Growth in production concentration of a given crop in enterprises and a strengthening of specialization within these enterprises facilitates an

improvement in interbranch ties, curtails expenditures for shipment and storage, increases preservation, and creates the prerequisites for achieving the necessary proportions between industrial and agricultural production.

Active work to improve raw-materials zones of processing enterprises is usually carried out by RAPO councils only with regard to the agricultural crops profiled for their region; the rest often remain outside the sphere of their attention.

A low concentration level remains, for example, in potato farming; essential raw-materials zones do not exist for the starch-molasses branch and for other branches of industry involved in processing potatoes. The largest potato-processing enterprises receive raw materials from over 150-200 enterprises and the radius for potato shipments reaches 250-300 kilometers.

Apropos of potatoes and a number of other crops, the production of which does not require special natural-climatic conditions and can be implemented everywhere, the achievement of concentration and specialization of agricultural production depends namely on the work of the RAPO councils and on their interest in developing the corresponding branches of agricultural production. In contrast to this, the cultivation of grapes, citrus fruits, tea, tobacco and a number of other crops is possible only within certain geographic zones. Long-distance shipment of perishable raw materials is inexpedient, so that their processing at the place of production is of decisive significance. The industrial enterprises built long ago and located in the regions where the aforementioned crops are produced often cannot carry out the processing of the entire harvest.

With the goal of eliminating such disproportions and of achieving the preservation of all cultivated products, at the present time kolkhozes and sovkhozes are intensively developing their own processing industry and are building shops, sections and small enterprises for processing fruits and vegetables and some other types of agricultural products. The organization of processing in enterprises themselves strengthens intrarayon balance of the agricultural products that are produced and processed and improves their preservation. Nevertheless, the proportion of industrial production carried out by agricultural enterprises -- kolkhozes and sovkhozes -- within the total volume of food production is not large. For this reason the task of achieving the necessary proportionality between agricultural production output by kolkhozes and sovkhozes and the processing of agricultural products in specialized industrial enterprises remains most important. A solution to this problem is within the competency of the territorial APK, and in particular of Point 3 of the Model Resolution on the Rayon Agro-Industrial the RAPO. Association foresees "the achievement of the proportional and balanced development of enterprises and organizations belonging to the association with the goal of increasing food production and of fulfilling state plans by all enterprises of the agro-industrial complex."

At the same time, even in the future the necessary proportionality between agriculture that is specialized according to zone and production capacities of the processing industry cannot be achieved only within the limits of administrative-territorial boundaries of rayons, oblasts, krays or autonomous

republics; in some cases it requires a broader, inter-region scale. Agro-industrial production develops primarily under the influence of economic-geographic prerequisites. The advantages of the socialist form of management allows us to create closed agro-industrial cycles regardless of any departmental and administrative-territorial limits while adhering above all to the concepts of effective production. All that is required is that the corresponding prerequisites be discovered and implemented in a timely manner.

FOOTNOTES

¹For the sake of brevity, in the future rayon, oblast, kray and republic (ASSR) agro-industrial associations will be referred to as "territorial APK's."

²In the Moldavian SSR they are called agricultural-industrial.

³The ratio of the area occupied by sugar beet crops to the total crop area.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

KUBAN COMBINE DIRECTOR DISCUSSES EXPERIMENT INITIAL STEPS

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 34, Aug 85 p 16

[Article by M. M. Lomach, director, Kuban Combine: "The First Steps of the Kuban Combine" -- Under the rubric "Economics of the Agro-industrial Complex"]

[Text] At one of its regular meetings the CPSU Central Committee Politburo gave support to proposals from the RSFSR Council of Ministers and local party and soviet organizations to conduct economic experiments to improve the management and economic mechanisms of agro-industrial associations in the republic. Provisions were made to conduct practical tests of the work efficiency of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises under the new conditions for planning production, purchases and deliveries, and of the advisability of transferring enterprises and organizations in a number of ministries to the jurisdiction of agro-industrial associations.

The experience in setting up the Kuban Combine, which was organized a year ago in Krasnodar Kray, deserves attention in this regard. Combine Director Mikhail Mikhaylovich Lomach, explains the essentials of of this experiment, what has already been done and plans for the future.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMBINE

When setting up the combine provisions were made to expand the rights of farms, enterprises and organizations in the APK, to increase their responsibility and independence in production planning, the selection of operating strategy and tactics and the introduction of scientific achievements and progressive experience.

The combine includes: kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Timashevskiy Rayon, the Selkhkoztekhnika and Selkhozkhimiya [Agrochemical] Associations, the grain products and meat combines, dairy and sugar processing plants, motor transport enterprises in the Ministry of Motor Transport and the MSO [Interkolkhoz construction organization] of the kray kolkhoz construction association. In addition, the Kuban includes sovkhozes in the Krasnodar Tea Production Association, the Dagomyss and Aldersk Tea Factories, the Tuapsinskiy Wild Animal Sovkhoz, and a filiate of the Kraykolkhozproyekt Institute, which has already been converted into a design institute. In all, there are 56 enterprises and organizations in 13 ministries and departments. They are located within Timashevskiy Rayon and beyond its boundaries.

The council is the agro-industrial combine's highest management organ. It is made up of APK enterprise and organization managers. Each enterprise and organization in the combine retains its legal and operational-economic independence, but operates according to a single plan, in close contact with others, guided by the common task of producing more products and raw materials for industry. At the same time the combine exercises systematic control over all aspects of enterprise and organization production and financial-operating activities and conducts comprehensive audits of kolkhozes, sovkhozs and other state enterprises and organizations and makes documented checkups of kolkhozes and other cooperative organizations in the combine, and gives help to their audit commissions.

In these processes, accentuated attention is given to the following: the combine is a complex including all all basic and auxiliary sectors and services. This permits us to directly, without intermediaries, produce agricultural products, put them into suitable commercial form and sell them to the state and directly to customers through a network of our own stores.

Foodstuffs assortment and volume is oriented towards the potentials of APK agriculture and processing enterprises. The quantity and type of output subject to deliveries to all-union and republic funds is regulated by superior organs and is sold at state purchase prices. The sales of foodstuffs through our own trade network are at retail prices set by the group price worked out by the finance-calculationcenter and approved by the combine council, taking into consideration, quality, consumer demand, the season, etc. Prices set by the combine council shoul compensate outlays for production, storage and transport, and assure the accumulation necessary for expanded production. At our stores in Timashevsk, Krasnodar and Sochi products do not sit long, but are in demand.

WHAT IS HANDED DOWN FROM ABOVE AND WHAT ARE THE COLLECTIVES' RIGHTS?

The following indicators are given from above: delivery volumes to all-union and republic funds, payments to the budget and allocations from the budget, the total (normative) wages fund and the material-technical resources allocated to the combine. We ourselves work out all remaining plan indicators, assuring compatibility between all sections, the complete use of internal reserves and the balanced development of sectors.

With regard to questions of material-technical supply for the combine, we are part of Kubanagrosnab [Kuban Agricultural Supply], a special administration set up within Gossnab. The combine organizes material-technical supply to enterprises and organizations within its structure.

A few words about major construction. The combine was granted extensive rights and powers for independent decisions. In particular, the combine council itself determines and approves capital investment volumes, their direction and project lists for construction at estimated costs of 1 to 4 million rubles. Project lists of up to 1 million rubles estimated costs are approved by the managers of organizations and enterprises in the combine.

We have a lot to build. This is shown by an evaluation of the condition of the existing facilities for processing and storing agricultural products. Many enterprises will essentially have to build anew, and some must be generally rebuilt. We have already worked out a program for construction, reconstruction and the further development of the combine.

We are goint to build a dairy plant for processing 70,000 tons of milk annually, a cannery for fruit, vegetables and juices, a multipurpose packaging plant, a carton plant, a workers settlement, a network of stores and restaurants, a cafe on the Black Sea coast and a whole series of other facilities. The construction of new processing enterprises will make it possible to rapidly increase foodstuffs production by more than two fold. Our plans are helped to a great extent by the centralized funds for production development, social-cultural measures and residential construction, material incentives, reserves, and other funds.

Also of major importance are the powers the combine has been granted to collaborate and establish direct ties with organizations and enterprises in the CEMA countries and Yugoslavia in science, technology and internation cooperation in production and the exchange of work experience. It has also been given the right to conclude economic contracts in the established manner.

Draft plans for the 12th Five-Year Plan have been discussed at all collectives. For the combine as a whole, agricultural gross output should increase by 11 percent, and service organization work volume by 15 percent. Processing enterprise capacity will grow. Capital investments will increase by 85 percent, including 83 percent for processing enterprises and 50 percent for trade facilities.

A SINGLE ACCOUNT CENTER

The combine leadership is now experiencing quite a few difficulties. Old habits of departmental subordination still make themselves evident. Not all managers and specialists have adjusted to the new situation. It isn't easy to reorientate the activities of processing, procurement and service enterprises and organizations. Many questions were raised by the creation of a single financial-account center for the combine. It was asked, how can there be economic and operational independence for enterprises if they are deprived of the possibility of direct ties with Gosbank offices?

The financial-account center was set up to perform operations between combine enterprises and organizations and USSR Gosbank, financial organs, supply, procurement and other organizations and enterprises and to plan combine financial activities. The Kuban is the sole borrower and the payer for all monetary obligations of the combine and the enterprises and organizations within it; in transactions with financial organs it is the sole receiver of budget allocations and the centralized payer to the budget in accordance with the financial plan approved for it.

All this has to be patiently explained not only to managers of our enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, but, unfortunately, to ministries and departments to which these units were previously subordinate. Nevertheless, the combine is gathering strength.

This year there was a fair harvest of grain and other crops. Animal husbandry operations are not bad. The first half year plan for meat sales was 26 percent overfulfilled, and the milk sales plan was 7 percent overfulfilled. Compared to last year, the sales of these products increased by 9 and 2 percent.

However, the main thing at which we are employing everybody -- from general director to brigade leader -- is the introduction of the main foundation for the combine's activities -- intrafarm accounting. All our activities are concentrated upon the development and implementation of measures to strengthen plan-financial discipline, reduce production costs, increase profitability and efficiency and assure the self-financing of enterprises and organizations in the combine.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

COLLECTIVE CONTRACT. COST ACCOUNTING PROMOTED IN STAVROPOL KRAY

Moscow AGITATOR in Russian No 16, Aug 85 pp 47-50

[Article by A. Korobeynikov, secretary of the CPSU Stavropol Kraykom: "With the Help of a Contract and Cost Accounting"]

[Text] During the socialist competition that has been unfolded in Stavropol Kray to greet the 27th party congress in a fitting manner, the village workers have posed the task of fulfilling and overfulfilling the goals of the 11th Five-Year Plan for the sale of field and farm products to the state.

It is necessary to mention what the basis is for the successful completion of the five-year plan -- and the basis is not a bad one. The average annual gross output of agricultural products increased by 16.5 percent during the four preceding years, and this is contributing to the goals of the five-year plan. The procurement plans for grain, sugar beets, potatoes, melons, and all types of animal husbandry products have been successfully fulfilled. The average annual grain sales grew by 29 percent; cattle and poultry -- by 21 percent; milk and eggs -- by 14 percent; and wool -- by 11 percent. The kray was awarded the challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee for achieving high results in the All-Union Socialist Competition in 1984. Five rayons and 10 village work collectives were also recognized as winners in the All-Union Competition.

All of this was made possible thanks to the strengthening of the material technical base and the widespread introduction of progressive methods for managing production and the brigade contract. A long time ago we pointed out that those kolkhozes and sovkhozes, where cost accounting has become the main management method and where they know how to take it into consideration, develop at rapid and stable rates with all other factors being equal. Labor productivity is higher and production costs are lower on collectives like these.

The task of ideological workers is to provide maximum help to the formation of a collective contract and cost accounting in brigades, shops and links and to the reorganization of the economic mechanism and production relationships. It is necessary to overcome deep-rooted ideas about work methods and

goals. If one takes into consideration the fact that the kolkhoz member's and sovkhoz worker's aim of "dislodging" today's wages, without being too concerned about final results, has taken shape over the course of years, we are talking about a sharp reorganization in the consciousness of a rural worker. The thought is simple: The standard of your zeal, qualifications and skill is the harvest. This must become a conviction of each worker.

The system which has taken shape in the kray for supporting the collective contract includes a series of measures of an organizational, social, economic, and indoctrinational nature. Seminars of party workers and the ideological aktiv, where the distinctive features of organizational and indoctrinational work under the conditions of a contract are examined in detail, are being conducted everywhere in the rayons. Many of them have been held on farms where the collective contract has already well proven itself.

In particular, it is pointed out during the seminars that the brigade contract is an organizational management form which does not guarantee high results by itself. The role of explanatory work is especially great in achieving them. For the first time, messages have begun to arrive from agitators and political informers about the fact that experienced machine operators and animal husbandry men -- true masters of their job-- are emerging in favor of individual piece-work. The foremost workers had been afraid that their efforts would not receive the required material and moral evaluation and would be lost against the background of average indicators.

Ye. Yevglevskiy, a distinguished pig tender and bearer of the Order of Lenin, aimed for a collective contract for a long time on the Komsomolets Kolkhoz in Aleksandrovskiy Rayon. The controversy circled around wages for the different categories of workers. Everything was clear to the pig-tenders—their "harvest" is the gain in weight. But what about the pig-drivers, foragers and fodder preparers? A solution was finally found; the labor of everyone was to be paid in relation to the pay of the pig-tenders. This example once again showed that the problem of wage-leveling is a substantial barrier.

Using concrete examples, the agitators and political informers showed that the interest Sof a progressive worker do not suffer at all if the labor participation coefficient and increments for length of service and rating are used skilfully. However, material and moral incentive measures should consider the opinion of the work collective. Special attention was paid to the fact that each director and specialist was an indoctrinator of the collective, performed political work and contributed to the making of the contract in every way possible by his personal example.

When difficulties arose with the formation of the material incentive fund on the Pravda Kolkhoz in Petrovskiy Rayon during the first stage of the introduction of a contract, Chairman B. V. Kulchanovskiy and the chief specialist of the farm proposed to supplement it with their own bonuses. They created a fund from these sums and also from all of the types of other bonuses—— a fund with whose help they were able to interest people in achieving high

final results. Here, the brigade contract rapidly received the recognition of the kolkhoz members, became firmly anchored in the farm and progressed uphill immediately. Whereas the amount of the average annual net profit was 965,000 rubles during the 10th Five-Year Plan, it topped two million rubles in 1983 and 1984. Propagandists, agitators and political informers made widespread use of this example in their discussions. Unusual situations require unusual solutions -- this was the conclusion.

Experience has corroborated the correctness of the position of those party committees who have changed the structure of primary party organizations somewhat during the shift to a collective contract. Today, party and party-Komsomol groups have been created and party organizers have been confirmed in all contract collectives. Everything is being done to strengthen contract brigades with experienced communists. You see, it is they who influence the microclimate in a collective by their attitude to work, personal example and truly and timely expressed words.

Here is only one case. Communist V. Ye. Goryunov, bearer of the Order of Lenin, and communist V. I. Popov were sent on instructions of the farm's party committee to the dairy products farm of the Kamennobalkovskiy Sovkhoz in Blagodarnenskiy Rayon as the manager and engineer, respectively, before the farm's shift to a contract. The party group managed to rally the collective and organize a militant socialist competition. The farm moved from the ranks of those lagging behind and, based on 1984 results, 8,433 quintals of milk were sold to the state when the plan called for 6,500 quintals.

The workers' economic educational system also faced the new task. Approximately 70,000 agro-industrial complex workers studied in the "Collective Contract in the Village" course during the past training year; and 78,000 -- during the previous training year. The CPSU Kraykom's House of Political Enlightenment --- working with scholars -- has developed and published instructional methods textbooks for all the subjects in the instructional methods course. These textbooks suggest active forms for classes.

The experience of the base farms is a good aid in incorporating the collective contract. Here, open classes are conducted periodically for the rayon's propagandists. The Zavety Ilicha Kolkhoz in Gracheskiy Rayon is among the best of these farms. V. A. Ryndin, the kolkhoz chairman, has become the main propagandist for incorporating the contract here. The training of the farm's leading personnel has been organized on his initiative. The chairman himself, party committee secretary and chief specialist present discussions in the work collective. Costaccounting days have become a distinctive school for the contract on the farm. A total of 300 machine operators and animal husbandry men-- practically all of them -- have studied the "Collective Contract in the Village"course in the schools of communist labor. During the classes, special attention is paid to improving the use of the equipment, expanding resources in an economic manner and strengthening labor discipline. Library workers were actively involved in publicizing the contract. They prepare special-purpose collectionsor organize exhibits and conduct "oral magazines." Brigade contract corners have been set up in production subunits

where information on experiences in incorporating it into the progressive farms of the kray is widely presented. Field-team leaders, brigade leaders and machine operators in the non-contract links have become true agitators for the introduction of the contract. This is natural. You see, nothing convinces like the word of a direct participant in an event. They campaign for the contract and for a proprietary attitude toward national property and the posters which today peer at each harvest participant from the walls of field camps, work shops and agitation cars. We read on one of these posters: "Remember, corn-growers, if you leave four-five ears per square meter of field, you will fail to receive 50 kilograms of grain per hectare. If you do not thresh all of the grain from an ear-- another 160 kilograms is lost."

It is necessary to think a great deal about organizing socialist competition. Today, the collective has moved to the forefront. The general results now depend on the harmonious efforts of a link or brigade and not on the records of individuals.

At the beginning of the 11th Five-Year Plan, the collective of farm No 1 on Kazminskiy Kolkhoz in Kochubeyevskiy Rayon stressed individual competition. There were leaders here and there were those who lagged behind. Generally speaking, milk yields did not exceed 2,000 kilograms of milk per foraging cow. With the introduction of a contract, they were reoriented toward common results and milk yields grew to 3,000 kilograms. That is what a brigade contract is.

The stress in material and moral incentives is being changed. Whereas the sizes of the bonuses for the best milkmaid previously often exceeded the remuneration of the entire collective -- this contributed to the development of individualism, the farm now receives the main amount and not for intermediate indicators but for high final results.

Under the conditions of the competition, we also stress collective forms of rivalry. The CPSU kraykom, krayispolkom, kray trade union, and Komsomol kraykom have set up 28 challenge prizes in the name of distinguished Stavropol people, which are awarded to the best costaccounting subunits in the agroindustrial complex. The prizes are reinforced with monetary bonuses. The conferring of the awards is shown on kray television and the mass information media tell about the experiences of the prize winners. Kray schools of progressive experience are operating on the base of collectives that are winners in the competition.

This does not mean that we have rejected individual forms of socialist competition. The competition for the title of best worker in a trade takes place actively just as before. The collectives themselves determine the winners.

The June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum pointed out in particular the need for social support for ideological work. That is why party committees posed the task of granting well-equipped premises, where it would be possible to assemble and discuss production matters, hear lecturers or political

informers and rest, to each link, brigade or shop detachment at the same time that there is a shift to the collective contract. The village workers themselves justifiably complain during unified political days, assemblies and meetings with directors that buildings with cloakrooms, showers and everything else necessary, which brightens the life of the people and frees them from everyday disorder, still do not exist everywhere.

The CPSU kraykom's propaganda and agitation department took these desires into consideration and the next seminar meeting on ideological support for the wintering of the cattle was conducted at a base in Apanasenkovskiy Rayon. The hosts tried to show to the seminar participants the best of everything that they had. They demonstrated the operation of a medical dispensary at one of the sheep complexes, showed them the comfortable shepherds houses, and acquainted them with the cultural, everyday and trade services of the animal husbandrymen.

Then a review competition was announced for the enterprises and organizations of the agro-industrial complex concerning the establishment of the best conditions for the rural workers' work, living and rest. One cannot say that we completely solved the problem of the farm and field workers living conditions by this; however, the majority of the party and trade union committees and economic directors have already turned their face toward this. Today, practically every farm, brigade and link collective has its own house or car and recreation and reading room where mass political work is organized.

The concern for people and the organizational and mass political work to incorporate the collective contract are providing results. At the present time, 84 percent of the plant-growing subunits and 89 percent of the animal husbandry ones have embraced the contract in the kray. Thus, the task, which was posed by the party to make the brigade form for organizing and stimulating labor the main one during the 11th Five-Year Plan, has been quantitatively solved.

Has this task been solved qualitatively? Does each brigade really correspond to its designation? Does the shift to the new form for organizing and stimulating labor lead everywhere both to an improvement in economic work indicators and to the development of a collective consciousness that is new and oriented toward the obtaining of final psychological results?

Research, which was performed at the end of last year by the sociological research laboratory of the kray agricultural administration, has provided answers to these questions. They are not always positive ones. The research material and the results from analyzing the work of primary party organizations in contract brigades suggests a specific program for further improving ideological work under the conditions of brigade cost accounting.

In the first place, a great deal must be done to expand economic thinking. According to the results of the sociological research, 30 percent of the workers and kolkhoz members do not know how costaccounting goals are determined. People do not know how to calculate, they do not even know how to think using

economic categories, and they cannot rise above concerns for their pay. The material incentive system also does not contribute to the development of economic thinking: it is not clear from the bonuses which ruble came from an increase in labor productivity and which from a savings in material. It is necessary to improve this system.

It is also evident that the time for indoctrinational work on publicizing the common bases of brigade cost accounting has been stretched out here and there. Agitators and propagandists are not placing in front of themselves the goal of teaching its fundamentals to each machine operator, animal husbandrymen and field worker. You see, an individual without a knowledge of the bases for savings in a contract brigade is the same as a driver who does not know the rules of the road. Experience shows that a worker like this can inflict quite a bit of damage on the collective through his bungling actions.

Another problem is the development of self-management in the brigades. Less than a third of the surveyed directors indicated that the brigade council operated permanently and effectively. On the one hand, the reason for this state of affairs is the fact that the style of managing the brigade is changing slowly; Collectives are sometimes completely dependent on the farm's leadership and specialists when solving both production and intrabrigade matters. On the other hand, the brigades themselves lack militancy in protecting their rights and they often counter-sue the administration — if it can be expressed this way. Ideological workers publicize these examples poorly and do not connect them with the opportunities that the Law on Labor Collectives has opened up for the brigades.

Another problem, which the sociological research revealed, is the unsatisfactory moral climate in many brigades. Of course, time is needed to develop comradely contacts. However, it is necessary to establish a healthy basis for these contacts from the first days of the brigade's work -- primarily by a just distribution of wages. The distribution method still does not suit a third of those questioned. The labor participation coefficient is not being used everywhere and is frequently used in a formal manner.

Thus, the work of incorporating an effective contract in the kray's agriculture still requires quite a bit of organizational effort and spiritual strength from ideological activists. This contract is a very important instrument in economic management methods, the development of self-management principles, the improvement of efficiency and responsibility for final work results, and the rearing of a proprietor of the land.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

USEFULNESS OF PRIVATE PLOT LABOR ANALYZED

PM141322 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 October 1985 carries on page 2, as part of a feature entitled "Dialogue", a 2,000-word article by candidate of philosophical sciences L. Babayeva entitled "Market Garden Incomes. Analysis of Reactions to the Articles Declare Your Incomes by V. Rogovin and Rose Fever? by N. Naydina, published by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA."

According to the author, "A significant proportion of letters note the importance and usefulness of labor on personal subsidiary plots," but at the same time "Many readers consider it extremely unfair that the owners of personal plots, especially those earning high incomes, play no part in financing works which are shared by the entire population—unkeep of medical services, education, and so on."

Having quoted several letters and cited figures to illustrate the discrepancy between annual incomes from private plots and taxes paid, Babayeva declares that "we consider fair the readers' demand to raise taxes on personal plots which produce high yields and bring large income to their owners.

"But if taxes were to be raised, would this not undermine people's interest in working on their personal plots? Older people recall the negative consequences of unjustified restrictions of excessive taxes imposed on personal subsidiary plots in the past."

Fears that "speculators" might simply pass the tax on to the consumers and that increased taxes will make plot owners stop cultivating are countered by Babayeva's argument that "The measure suggested by the scientists is not a desire to prevent such income but only a means of regulating it."

Babayeva says that readers "draw attention to the fact that people who consider the private plot to be their main source of income either work in the public sector without any particular diligence or even do not work at all," and goes on:

"Meanwhile, it ought to be clear to everyone that it is not private plots which determine the state of affairs; sovkhoz and kolkhoz production is the fundamental basis. Personal subsidiary plots are simply a support for the state sector."

Turning to suggestions made by readers regarding the future of private plots, she mentions two alternatives—that either "all excess produce produced on personal subsidiary plots be delivered to the state at a fixed price" or "progressive taxes on agricultural produce be collected directly at the kolkhoz markets."

After describing reader concern about "speculator dealers, middlemen, and other antisocial elements who are totally uncontrolled" and giving examples of their activities, the author concludes:

"It is necessary to intensify the state regulation of labor on private plots. The aim is that such labor should not undermine the incentives to work in social production. Relevant measures are necessary. Such measures, however, that would not infringe the interests of honest people but would be directed toward extirpating negative phenomena."

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AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

STAVROPOL KRAY INTERFARM MECHANIZATION SERVICE DETAILED

Moscow PARTIYNAYA ZHIZN in Russian No 16, Aug 85 pp 37-42

/Article by N. Yeremin, secretary of the Stavropol Kray CPSU Committee: "Interfarm Enterprises for Mechanization"/

/Text/ Agriculture in Stavropol Kray constitutes a large sector of the kray's economy. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes and the enterprises which provide services for them, in conformity with the decisions handed down during the April (1985) Plenum of the party's central committee and the aims of the conference in the CPSU Central Committee on the problems concerned with accelerating scientific-technical progress are striving to achieve a maximum intensification of production, improvements in planning and control and stronger organization, discipline and order in all elements of the agroindustrial complex. The economically intelligent and efficient use of available potential in the interest of increasing the production of agricultural products has now become a most important task of the primary party organizations and work collectives and an endeavor of great political importance.

The kray party organization, in a planned and consistent manner, is carrying out a search for the means for raising the effectiveness of the tremendous potential which the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and associations of rayselkhoztekhnika have at their disposal, especially its most active portion -- agricultural equipment. Studies carried out on the initiative of the kray party committee led to the conclusion concerning the need for creating, by way of an_experiment and first in one and thereafter in all agricultural rayons, MKhP's /interfarm enterprises for the mechanization of agriculture/ -- large specialized state-kolkhoz formations for the joint use of equipment. Kolkhozes, sovkhozes and rayselkhoztekhnika associations joined these organizations on a voluntary basis.

The MKhP's are presently servicing 172 kolkhozes and 162 sovkhozes. In essence, a single engineering service for the agroindustrial complex has been created in the kray at the present time. The following facts underscore its capability. The fixed capital amounted to 900 million rubles. The new enterprises have more than 36,000 tractors, approximately 14,000 grain harvesting combines, just as many motor vehicles and more than 7,000 units of bench, welding and technological equipment. There are 90,000 individuals working here, including approximately 40,000 machine operators and in excess of 8,000 engineers and technicians. For all practical purposes, the interfarm enterprises are now an inseparable component part of the rayon agroindustrial associations, in which

unified engineering services are operating based upon interfarm and interdepartmental cooperation.

In the organization of the interfarm enterprises, the kray committee exercised strict control over the implementation of the principles of socialist construction. This includes voluntary actions in joint collaboration among kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other enterprises; a scientific approach for selecting the forms for building new enterprises; the material interest of farms and also kolkhozmembers, sovkhoz workers and specialists in the need for forming MKhP's. In the period which preceded the creation of MKhP's, party-economic aktivs were held and meetings were conducted for the collectives of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and rayselkhoztekhnika associations, during which the purposes, tasks and operating conditions of the interfarm enterprises were explained in detail. Thus the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and rayselkhoztekhnika associations thought out rather thoroughly the principles and operating conditions of the interfarm enterprises. And importance is attached to the fact that this process was accompanied by a further intensification in the division of labor and by an even higher level of production specialization and concentration. It should be borne in mind that the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, upon transferring equipment over to the MKhP's, continued to remain the owners of that equipment.

The overall management of the interfarm enterprises is carried out on a broad democratic basis by councils. The structure of the councils of interfarm enterprises includes the leaders and specialists of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and Goskomselkhoztekhnika associations, leading production workers and party and soviet workers. In their practical work, the councils seek to influence production while taking the interests of the kolkhozes and sorkhozes into account. The chiefs of the agricultural administrations of rayispolkoms /rayon executive committees/ are selected to serve as the chairmen of these councils. Control over the economic activity is entrusted to the staffs of the rayselkhoztekhnika associations, which are the leading enterprises of the MKhP's. The measures undertaken made it possible to proceed with no increase in staffs.

The principal function of the interfarm enterprises is to ensure the required readiness of the machine-tractor pool and to organize its efficient use. The MKhP's operate on the basis of plans approved by the councils. Importance is attached to ensuring that the work and services provided to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes are paid for on the basis of the cost, that is, the interfarm enterprises earn no profit from their economic activity.

The kray party committee is displaying concern over the need for ensuring that the new enterprises are supplied with skilled cadres of leaders and specialists, individuals who understand well the purposes and tasks of interfarm cooperation and who are oriented towards achieving high final results in their work. This category includes such individuals as V. Nikotin -- director of the Karachayevo-Cherkess Oblast MKhP and I. Kaznacheyev and N. Trushev -- directors respectively of the Petrovskiy and Predgornyy interfarm enterprises for the mechanization of agriculture. Their operational experience is an example of a creative attitude towards the work. The enterprises headed by them serve as a school for leading work methods and administration.

More than 5 years have passed since the formation of the interfarm enterprises. It is now possible to summarize some of the results of their work.

The creation of interfarm enterprises for mechanization represents a large step taken towards solving the tasks concerned with further improving agricultural production and the socio-economic development of labor collectives. The concentration of technical resources in the same hands expanded considerably the opportunities for kolkhoz and sovkhoz production and it ensured correct and more intelligent use of the machine-tractor pool. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes, having transferred their equipment over to the MKhP's, concentrated their efforts directly on developing the principal branches of the economy -- field crop husbandry and livestock husbandry -- and on introducing scientific achievements, progressive technologies and leading experience into production operations.

The creation of a rayon engineering service had a beneficial effect on the carrying out of a unified technical policy and on the development of a repair and servicing base. In the primary work collective -- the mechanized detachment -- equipment work has now been completed on a machine yard for the storage of simple types of agricultural machines, a technical servicing point and on a site for the adjustment of equipment. A permanent supply of parts and units for 60-70 items of equipment has been created here.

For example, Mechanized Detachment No. 3 at the Kolkhoz imeni Kalinin in Kirovskiy Rayon has 19 machine operators, five of whom are communists. The detachment works 3,350 hectares of land. It has been converted over to cost accounting. A party group is the political nucleus of the collective. The communists are directing the efforts of the collective towards raising the culture of production and achieving strict order, discipline and organization. Each year the detachment obtains high yields for all of the agricultural crops.

The detachments are subordinate to departments -- large-scale production subunits. A department at the Pravda Kolkhoz in Petrovskiy Rayon has 10 mechanized detachments. Here there is a departmental party organization which controls the party groups. The department's collective, under the direction of the kolkhoz's party organization and jointly with the members of the farm, annually achieves high operational results. At the present time, the kolkhoz is producing a net income of more than 2 million rubles, compared to an annual average of 956,000 rubles during the 10th Five-Year Plan This is the result of fine use of equipment and labor resources.

The mechanization departments include a central machine yard, a technical services station with a diagnostics section, a branch of a technical exchange point, a petroleum base and mobile equipment for refueling and providing technical services and also a dispatcher service. The departments are now solving in a skilled manner the problems concerned with storage, current repairs and the specialized technical servicing of tractors and complicated agricultural machines, based upon the introduction of a system for planned-preventive repairs and control over fuel expenditures.

The repair-servicing complex of the leading enterprise -- rayselkhoztekhnika -- consists of a station for the technical servicing of the powerful K-700 and T-150 tractors, motor vehicles, livestock husbandry equipment, technical exchange point, supply base and a laboratory for fuel and lubricating materials. The MKhP's also include repair plants and specialized workshops for carrying

out capital repairs on tractors, motor vehicles and also on their units and assemblies and also for the restoration of parts.

The reorganization of the engineering service in the rural areas was preceded by a great amount of organizational, technical and economic work associated with searching for more acceptable and advantageous variants for interfarm cooperation. In commencing the work of bringing about profound changes in the use of the machine-tractor pool and in servicing and repairing it, the kraykom /kray committee/ and the rayon party committees recognized the complicated nature of the reorganization and the breakdown in the old ideas concerning work methods. The kray party organization concentrated its main attention on convincing people concerning the need for and advisability of the measures undertaken. In addition, new operational forms had to be developed for the labor collectives, their economic relationships required adjustments and the work of the party, professional trade union and komsomol organizations had to be reorganized in conformity with the new requirements.

Certainly, the reorganization did not start from point zero. As is known, extensive use was being made throughout the kray of the Ipatovo method for equipment usage, approved by the CPSU Central Committee. Moreover, this method is constantly being improved. Large-scale specialized mechanized detachments, to which land and equipment had been assigned, were in operation on a majority of the farms. In addition, the creation of the interfarm enterprises was preceded by an experiment carried out in Kradnogvardeysk Rayon. Accumulated experience is constantly being summarized and improved. In addition to the party, soviet and agricultural organs, more than 20 scientific-research institutes and institutions participated in the carrying out of this work.

The workers, especially the machine operators, applied themselves to the new forms for production organization in a positive manner. However, there were those who still entertained doubts. Some leaders and specialists even disagreed with the manner in which interfarm cooperation was being carried out. A great amount of explanatory work had to be carried out for their benefit. At the same time, the kray party committee and the rural rayon committees studied thoroughly their arguments and reasoning. An analysis of the various opinions and considerations was of assistance in introducing appropriate corrections into practical work and the conditions of the experiment.

In particular, all possible measures were undertaken to ensure that no weakening would take place in the relationships between the machine operators with the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and that their interests would coincide with those of the farms. Towards this end, the rights both of a production unit of an interfarm enterprise and simultaneously those of a kolkhoz or sovkhoz department were extended to cover a department for mechanization. All who work in a department continue to be members of kolkhozes or sovkhozes and are retained on the records in the party, professional trade union and komsomol organizations. In addition, they participate in the life of these organizations, enjoy all of the rights and privileges of members of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and are included in their elective organs of administration.

Planning for the work of the departments and their internal subunits -- mechanized detachments -- is carried out in two channels: kolkhozes and

sovkhozes on the one hand and interfarm enterprises on the other. The overall production volumes and the use of the products are established by the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, while the expenditure limits for work and services -- the fund for wages, fuel and materials -- are approved by the interfarm enterprise. The MKhP's carry out the accounting with the personnel for work carried out.

The bonuses, additional payments for over-fulfillment of the output production plans and improvements in the quality of the products in accordance with the cost accounting tasks are paid for by the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Such services as the personnel and dispatcher departments are the same for a kolkhoz, sovkhoz or interfarm enterprise. The positions of cashier, secretary-typist or head of a warehouse or petroleum base are also occupied by the same workers.

The kolkhozes and sovkhozes retain complete authority in the organization and carrying out of agricultural work. In turn, the engineering services have complete independence in organizing the servicing and repair of the machine-tractor pool, ensuring a proper workload for it and also in the use of the technical base throught the rayon as a whole.

The great amount of organizational, educational and explanatory work carried out by the party committees and primary party organizations made it possible, within a bried interval of time, to carry out the conversion over to the new working conditions in all of the kray's rayons. First of all, the MKhP's established order in the organization of labor and it established the norms for labor and also unified norms for expenditures of fuel, materials and electric power for work carried out and services performed. Generally speaking, the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and interfarm enterprises implemented measures aimed at introducing scientific labor organization, the collective contract and cost accounting into operations and this had an effect on improvements in the work activity of machine operators.

There is still another important point: the engineering services of MKhP's began to devote attention to scientific-technical progress. Over the past few years, for example, more than 9,000 different types of agricultural machines and devices have been produced or reequipped at plants and in workshops, all developed by agricultural efficiency experts. Included among them -- 844 heavy duty hay wagons and 524 toothless drag harrows for the K-700 tractor, more than 200 sets of attachments for the industrial technology employed in the growing of vegetables and row crops, 391 sprayers and 147 mixers for the intensive technology for cultivating winter wheat, mobile points for the sorting and cleaning of sugar beets and loaders. This has made it possible to mechanized completely many field operations.

In particular, improvements have been realized in the storage of equipment, in the organization of centralized refueling operations and in the specialized technical servicing of machines. During a short period of time, 276 centralized machine yards were created, 127 stations and points for technical servicing and 832 sites for carrying out equipment adjustment work were built and 303 branches of technical exchange points were organized. Considerable improvements came about in the training and retraining of machine operators.

The strengthening of the production base and greater interest on the part of machine operators in the final results have borne fruit. All field work is presently being carried out in a complete manner, on a high quality basis and during the best periods. Over the past 4 years, labor productivity in farming has increased by 23 percent. We succeeded in halting a process which has continued for almost one quarter of a century -- lowered productivity of the machine-tractor pool and a corresponding increase in the expenses for equipment maintenance. During the past year alone, these expenses decreased by 15.5 million rubles and a savings of 82,000 tons of fuel and lubricating materials was realized.

In close collaboration with kolkhozes, sovkhozes, grain products enterprises and enterprises of the meat industry, the interfarm enterprises made a great contribution towards solving the problem of centralized deliveries of mixed feed, livestock and poultry. Towards this end, they prepared more than 1,000 containers for the transporting of poultry and they organized the repair and production of livestock wagons. At the present time, practically all of the mixed feed, more than 90 percent of the poultry and almost 70 percent of the cattle, hogs and sheep are being delivered on a centralized basis. The overall economic effect from this has exceeded 3 million rubles.

Interfarm cooperation in the use of equipment has accelerated the processes of production specialization and concentration. At the present time, two thirds of the kray's kolkhozes and sovkhozes have introduced a branch structure and three fourths -- enlarged crop rotation plans.

Under the conditions imposed by interfarm cooperation, the agronomic services of kolkhozes and sovkhozes are operating in a more purposeful manner. Released from the many concerns having to do with the completion of assemblies and daily work orders for the carrying out of operations, the agronomists are now devoting more attention to the accurate observance of the technology, to the quality of the field work and to mastering the industrial technologies for producing goods. And here is the result. Over the past 4 years, the gross output volume of agriculture increased by 16.5 percent and its rate of growth doubled. The kray's farms increased their grain purchases by 29 percent, sunflowers -- by 35, potatoes -- by 55, livestock and poultry -- by 21, milk and eggs -- by 14 and wool -- by 11 percent.

Certainly, it would be an oversimplification to think that all of these progressive changes resulted from the creation of the MKhP's. Our party and government undertook large-scale measures associated with strengthening the logistical base of agriculture and the entire agroindustrial complex and raising the material interest of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the further development of production and in its intensification. At the same time, the work of the interfarm enterprises, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, rayselkhoztekhnika associations and RAPO councils is constantly the object of attention by the bureau and secretariat and is reviewed during plenums of the kray CrSU committee. Each year, questions concerned with the work of the agrarian sector of the economy are raised for discussion during a kray conference, to which a wide range of production leaders, specialists are invited. We rely heavily upon improving cost accounting relationships and merging the interests of selkhoztekhnika as the leading enterprise with the interests of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes with regard to achieving high results.

The interfarm enterprises are undergoing a serious examination this year. The weather has caused many problems for the farmers. From April up until the middle of July there has not been one rainfall. The agricultural workers are countering the caprices of nature with their experience, skill and expertise. All of the field work is being carried out in a complete manner, on a timely basis and in a high quality manner. A competition has been launched among the kray's machine operators for achieving maximum utilization of the technical potential embodied in the machines and for achieving the highest productivity during the operation of tractors, combines, trucks, mechanisms and assemblies and also for over-fulfillment of the daily norms. The agricultural workers are striving to harvest and safeguard their crops completely, to lay in 20 percent more feed than last year and to establish a strong foundation for obtaining high yields next year.

Recently the kray CPSU committee supported the initiative of those collectives of selkhoztekhnika associations and interfarm enterprises which undertook, following the example of the AvtoVAZ Association, the obligation of doubling the volume of restored spared parts by 1990. According to estimates by economists, this will make it possible to save 10,000-12,000 tons of metal and to realize a savings of 3.5-4 million rubles.

It would obviously be premature to state that all of the problems concerned with the operation and maintenance of machines in a high state of technical readiness have been solved throughout the kray. However, the operational practice of the interfarm enterprises has unquestionably proven that a successful form has been found for the effective use of a machine-tractor pool for lowering the expenses for its maintenance and for achieving high final results in agricultural production.

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AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

PROBLEMS OF PRODUCTION, USE OF MINI-EQUIPMENT FOR PRIVATE PLOTS

Tashkent EKONOMIKA I ZHIZN in Russian No 6, Jun 85 pp 66-68

[Article by V. Chernyayev: "Mini-Equipment for Private Subsidiary Plots, What Should it be?"

IText] Many have and are continuing to write about how private subsidiary plots need small scale mechanization. The same can be said about the lack and low quality of agricultural tools, instruments and equipment, and the unavailability of such items for sale. However, improvements in and the liquidation of the shortage of these items are only some of the measures needed. There is now an urgent question about what types of and how small scale equipment are needed at private subsidiary plots. After all, the development, mastery and expansion of their production require large outlays of social labor.

Obviously, in speaking about the efficiency of these outlays, we should keep in mind not only the payoff period for the production of small scale equipment but also how completely this machinery can be used on private subsidiary farms. If such equipment is designed and produced without successfully forecasting the demand for it, waiting until customers make their selection, this will unavoidably cause large production outlays for unsold, or insufficiently sold goods.

Also, the acquisition of machines does not completely eliminate the question about their utility. The fact is that the majority of present small scale equipment can only be profitably used when there is a large volume of similar operations or processes which must be rapidly performed. However, all work of this type (tillage, feed preparation, processing of agricultural products. etc) is either seasonal or is done at relatively long intervals. For the rest of the time the equipment sits idle.

Also, the territories of the majority of private subsidiary farms consist of a quite spotty "mosaic" of small, differently used parcels of land. Therefore, each individual type of agricultural production is not very large. The use of a mini-tractor, for excaple, is justified on a plot of no less than one hectare. Equipment will not be completely used even on those farms engaged primarily in agricult call abor such as the raising of goats and melons.

There is also another important question. Even a quick list of various labor processes at private subsidiary farms and the equipment needed for them shows how diversified the equipment must be. The maintenance and servicing of this equipment will certainly take agricultural workers' time and effort. This has a negative effect upon work. The equipment, absorbing ever greater amounts of attention, will be less useful. One should also note that this equipment is quite complex and that its maintenance requires skills, or in any case, habits.

Obviously, not too many will be able to acquire such machinery in the immediate future. In the best case, a private subsidiary farm will have one or two machines most necessary for the specific owners. Most large scale work will, as previously, be done either by hand, or by using outside help. It is no accident that among the voices calling for the more rapid introduction of equipment at private subsidiary farms there are heard criticisms calling for a "return to the horse", etc.

Neither can it be denied that equipping privat subsidiary farms will increase energy and fuel consumption in the country and will definitely damage environmental equilibrium.

All this should by no means be understood as an attempt to show that small scale equipment is not needed. The process of mechanizing private subsidiary farms should be examined from all sides.

In our view, attention should be directed towards the rational combination or optimal proportions of all equipment for agricultural labor. This multifaceted situation should be examined as a whole, and not individually. It should be based on a strict accounting of the public's real requirements.

The satisfaction of these requirements is not exhausted by increasing the production of small scale equipment. They must also be examined from the viewpoint of feasibility and profitability. Equipment features such as technical complexity, the need for service and maintenance, negative aspects of use -- noise, vibration, large weight and size, all frequently lead to small scale equipment being poorly adapted to work situations, especially in the countryside, where there are ancient and deep traditions in the use of hand tools, which are accessible to everyone and which are, in sense, perfect. In reality, the complete set of hand tools was formed more than 2,500 years ago. Since then there has been practically nothing new, only improvements in existing tools. Therefore developers of small scale equipment for the countryside face the task of creating machinery which would not be simple for producers. Its use should be weighed against negative aspects of mechanization, and have perceptible advantages.

The development of powerful, highly productive equipment for private subsidiary farms is, on the one hand moving towards increased indicators, improved quality and expanded assortments. On the other hand this equipment should have quite definite roles. It cannot be used to mechanize various day to day operations in the most diverse situations. This is a specialized complex. Perhaps one should think about how such complexes should be based not only upon ready to run components (items, units or blocks), but should also

include "semifabricated" elements, making it possible for such a set to completely meet each owner's individual requirements. This "adjustment" of motorized equipment to the needs of each individual farm would make it possible to obtain the maximum effect. Also, this would help overcome the spread of complexes with large amounts of maintenance and duplicate elements. It would also make for more flexible adaptation of machines with standard indicators to the features of private subsidiary farms, including climate, geography (relief), etc. The possibilities of taking into account private subsidiary farms regional and national charactistics are also important.

One should also think about appropriate technology for small amounts of work. In particular, mini-equipment is needed for daily, small farm chores. It would make it possible to avoid distractions from such work, doing it between other jobs. The time and effort would be devoted to work on private subsidiary farms and would not be spent on small but essential household tasks. For example, elementary jobs such as tightening bolts and screws, are not so great as they are frequent. However, they can definitely cause difficulties, especially for people with bad vision, coordination and other problems, that is, many older people, those who are now to a large extent engaged in work on private subsidiary farms. There are machines for these jobs, but they are not suitable for daily use, they are heavy, high powered. etc. Light machines, based upon electric hand drills, might be indespensible for household needs. Practically any person could use such a machine with one hand in almost any place. One would not have to hold the nut or screw in one's left hand. It would be automatically inserted from a storage system. Perhaps an entire series of such machines could be built. Handling them would be reduced to simply placing them on the necessary spot and pressing a button.

Such mini-equipment is not only convenient to use, but also profitable. It is not intended for large volumes of work done in the same way. It is therefore useful where work frequently changes -- the mechanization of those household and farm "trifles" which absorb so much time and effort. It is advantageous to develop such equipment. People now use their circular saw or motor unit [motoblok] for some types of episodic work. Each such use probably does not use much fuel or electrical energy, but the total can be large.

The mechanization of small jobs is also important because it would raise the general standards of labor and life. This, in particular, will help form a new and more modern way of life in the countryside.

The next question which should be examined is the development of various mechanisms and attachments with manual or foot drives. This direction of work should not be ignored in the overall movement for the widespread introduction of small-scale mechanization. Much household work, including agricultural work, could be substantially lessened and improved through the use of simple devices which consume no energy. In particular, rural workers do many minor repairs on all sorts of tools and equipment. Various small table or stand mounted drills and sharpeners, operated by hand or foot would be indispensible. Work on such units is not tiring, as the amount is not great, but diverse. They can be adapted to many operations. They are safe, and can be operated by women or adolescents. They are not only easy to use, but speed up work 4-5 fold compared to work by hand. This is quite sufficient for household needs.

The development of such equipment and machinery is incorrectly perceived as some sort of a return to the past. Work in this direction can be compared to the development of individual means of transportation. The popularity of bicycles is growing year after year. Even outside the household sphere there is an interest in using machines from the past, for example, sailing ships, dirigibles, etc. The reasons are understandable, one of the first ones being the intelligent use of energy resources.

The widespread mechanization of rural life is a call of the times. It is the basis of progress. However, mechanization questions should not solved in isolation from questions in the improvement of the entire complex of means of labor at private subsidiary farms, including those intended for household work, various types of unclassifiable small jobs, and even large infrequent ones.

It is necessary to set up a comprehensive program for all three groups of items mentioned here: hand tools and equipment, hand or foot driven devices, and small scale mechanization, divided into household mini-equipment or specialized agricultural machines. The leading role in each of these directions should not be further technical improvements in items in a given group as it should be the relation of their use value and purpose based on the principle of the mutual supplementation of groups of items.

Only when mechanization deeply penetrates all spheres of rural life and gives the necessary returns will this process be viewed as part of the comprehensive task of transforming the countryside and not just the authorization and improvement of small scale equipment.

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FORESTRY AND TIMBER

GOSPLAN OFFICIAL RESPONDS TO ARTICLE ON KOMI TIMBER COMPLEX

Moscow LESNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST in Russian 1 Aug 85 p 3

Article by V. Tatarinov, department head of USSR Gosplan: "Komi Timber Complex"; another article entitled "The Komi Forestry Complex" was published in USSR REPORT: JPRS-UAG-85-015, 18 Jun 85 p 146/

Text/ "The Komi Timber Complex" -- such was the title of an article published in the newspaper on 2 April 1985. In this article the author correctly addressed those questions concerned with improving the administration of and the balanced development for all elements of the timber industry complex.

The importance of the republic's forests will increase each year with regard to satisfying the wood requirements not only of the northwestern economic region but also those of other regions in the European part of the country.

At the same time, the estimated felling area, with regard to the overall volume and the soft deciduous economy, is being developed in a very weak manner. In 1984 the release of timber in terms of overall volume amounted to 22.9 million cubic meters, including for the coniferous economy -- 20.2 million cubic meters and for the soft deciduous economy -- 2.7 million cubic meters. The use of the estimated felling area during the year mentioned amounted to 66, 88 and 28 percent respectively.

Over the past 5 years, the annual release of timber established during the consolidation of the timber raw material bases decreased by 3.6 million cubic meters, or by almost 10 percent.

The estimates for the draft Basic Directions for Developing the National Economy During the 1986-1990 Period call for leading growth throughout the republic in the chemical and chemical-mechanical processing of wood. This will stimulate the use of additional resources of soft deciduous types of wood. At the Syktyvkar LPK /timber industry complex/, the plans for the 12th Five-Year Plan call for the placing in operation of capabilities for the production of 135,000 tons of chemical-thermo-mechanical wood bulk, with a wood consumption volume of 350,000 cubic meters, including approximately 110,000 cubic meters of wood of soft deciduous strains and also for the placing in operation of capabilities for the production of 140,000 tons of sulphate pulp, with a consumption of 700,000 cubic meters of wood of soft deciduous strains.

All of the above will make it possible to improve to a considerable degree the use of the republic's timber raw material resources.

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18 December '85